



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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May 14, 2012

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chair
Environment and Public Works
Committee
U.S. Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-6175

The Honorable John Mica
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 205105

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works
Committee
U.S. Senate
456 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-6175

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 205105

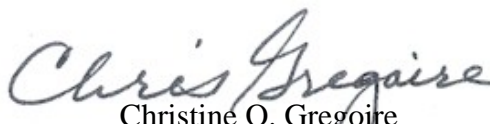
Dear Senators Boxer and Inhofe, and Representatives Mica and Rahall:


As you and your colleagues work in conference committee to reconcile the surface transportation bills (S. 1813/HR 4348), Western Governors would like to highlight our support for two non-transportation provisions that have been added to the legislation that are very important to our states.

We support the one-year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act and the one-year of full funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program. Secure Rural Schools and PILT are absolutely necessary in keeping our rural communities economically stable and able to provide crucial public services like roads, firefighting and search-and-rescue operations.

We strongly encourage conferees to keep these provisions intact in the final surface transportation bill. We thank you for your leadership on these issues and the larger transportation measure.

Sincerely,


Christine O. Gregoire
Governor, State of Washington
Chair


Gary R. Herbert
Governor, State of Utah
Vice Chair

cc: Conference Committee Members