



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

The Voice For Real Estate®

500 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001-2020
202.383.1194 Fax 202.383.7580
www.realtors.org/governmentaffairs

Al Mansell, CRB
President

Terrence M. McDermott
EVP/CEO

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
Jerry Giovaniello, Senior Vice President
Walter J. Witek, Jr., Vice President

June 20, 2005

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

I am writing about the reauthorization of transportation programs that is before you in conference committee. The National Association of REALTORS® has identified transportation as an important issue for REALTORS®, has studied the issues in depth, and has adopted official policy on the reauthorization of transportation funding. In brief, we support the approach taken in predecessor authorizations, ISTEA and TEA-21, and urge that this basic approach be continued in the next reauthorization.

One of the toughest and most important issues you will have to decide is the overall level of funding for the next six years. As you know, the House and Senate bills differ with respect to this amount. We urge you to be bold and approve a funding level that goes beyond merely maintaining current levels of congestion. Make a substantial investment that will pay dividends in jobs and economic growth.

I am pleased to note that the transportation authorizations approved earlier in both chambers contain provisions that align with NAR's views on such topics as taxation of ethanol fuels, interest on the Highway Trust Fund, spending firewalls, flexibility in the Surface Transportation Program, the federal share for capital projects, creative use of tolls to manage congestion, and streamlined environmental review of transportation projects. We urge you to retain these provisions in the final bill.

An investment in transportation is an investment in quality of life for American citizens and in the machinery that drives the American economy. I urge you make it a substantial investment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Mansell'.

Al Mansell, President
National Association of REALTORS®