



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

The Voice For Real Estate®

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March 8, 2005

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the more than one million members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, I am writing regarding the Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (H.R. 3) that will shortly be considered on the House floor. The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® has identified transportation as an important issue for REALTORS®. We have studied the issues in depth and have 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.

REALTORS® success depends on the quality of life of the communities in which we do business. We understand how important transportation infrastructure is to that quality of life. Therefore, I am pleased to note that H.R.3 contains provisions that align with NAR's views on such topics as toll roads, taxation of ethanol fuels, interest on the Highway Trust Fund, spending firewalls, flexibility in the Surface Transportation Program, the federal share for capital projects, and streamlined environmental review of transportation projects. The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® urges you to retain these provisions in the final bill.

Additionally, one of the toughest and most important issues you will have to decide is the overall level of funding for the next six-years. The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® urges you to approve a funding level that goes beyond merely maintaining current levels of congestion and that makes a substantial investment that will pay dividends in jobs and economic growth.

An investment in transportation is an investment in quality of life for American citizens and in the machinery that drives the American economy. On behalf of the more than one million members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, I urge you to 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®