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COALITION

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February 4, 2021

Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell,

The Lee Amendments #255 and #450 to S.Con.Res. 5 attempt to constrain a discussion about addressing the nation's infrastructure needs which the 119th Congress has yet to begin. Instead of leading with roadblocks to preserving federal highway and public transportation investment, Congress should focus on identifying real solutions to support these critical programs. As such, the 32 national associations and labor unions of the Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC) urge you and your colleagues to oppose the Lee Amendments and any other attempts to circumvent a long-overdue infrastructure renewal effort.

States rely on the federal highway funds to support, on average, 51 percent of their annual highway and bridge capital spending. Those resources allowed over 22,000 improvement projects to advance in 2020 alone. The current surface transportation program extension expires in less than eight months and the Highway Trust Fund's recurring revenue shortfall will once again threaten the continuity of this successful federal-state partnership.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in 2019 unanimously passed the type of forward-thinking, consensus-focused vision for the future of the federal highway program we hope will materialize in 2021. That measure would have generated benefits in short-term economic activity and job creation and long-term productivity enhancements that would far outweigh the perceived costs of any revenue mechanism Congress chooses to pursue.

Transportation infrastructure policy can and should be an area of common ground that benefits all Americans. Achieving that outcome, however, requires a focus on solutions and progress as opposed to objections and the status quo. The TCC looks forward to working with you to realize our shared goal of a national transportation network that safely and efficiently moves people and goods.

Sincerely,

The Transportation Construction Coalition

Cc: U.S. Senate