



November 5, 2014

Dear Representative:

As you may be aware, the tax provision which provides equitable treatment for commuters has expired and needs to be reauthorized. Until its expiration on December 31, 2013, the tax code provided an exclusion from income of equal amounts (parity) either for a parking benefit or public transit benefit (I.R.C. § 132(f)). Following the expiration of the transportation parity provision, we have reverted to a large disparity between the two benefits that now provides \$250 monthly for parking, but only \$130 monthly for diverse modes of public transportation such as mass transit, buses, and van pools.

Prior to year end, it is important that Congress address this expired tax provision in order to restore a common-sense policy that equalizes commuter benefits for middle class working families. Congress has the unique opportunity to institute this sound transportation policy at no additional cost to the American taxpayers. **The Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) has recently noted that a permanent provision setting both parking and transit benefits at \$235 and indexing them for inflation would raise net revenues of \$130 million over ten years.**

Seventy bipartisan cosponsors in the House are supporting The Commuter Parity Act (H.R. 2288), which would equalize the parking and transit benefits – accomplishing sound transportation policy and fair tax policy at the same time. The recent JCT score again shows that we can provide working Americans with this important tax relief without increasing the Federal deficit. In fact, this approach would actually raise revenue.

Encouraging the use of public transportation has many obvious benefits, including less congestion and wear and tear on our roadways, reducing emissions, and assisting working Americans and their employers. A recent study by TransitCenter on Mobility Attitudes demonstrates the significant link between the transit tax benefit and commuting choices, reporting that “people offered pretax transit commuting benefits from their employers are over five times as likely to take transit regularly as employed persons who are not receiving benefits.” Thus, we need to instill greater certainty to our transportation policy and Congress has the unique opportunity to do so on a revenue-neutral basis.

We urge you to communicate to the Congressional leadership the importance of making permanent this important transit parity provision.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

The undersigned organizations

128 Business Council  
A Better City Transportation Management Association  
AC Transit (Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District)  
Allston Brighton Transportation Management Association  
Amalgamated Transit Union  
American Payroll Association  
American Public Transportation Association  
Association for Commuter Transportation  
Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals  
Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)  
Benefit Resource Inc.  
Bike New York  
CalTrain  
Charles River Transportation Management Association  
Community Transportation Association of Idaho  
Cycles for Change  
Edenred Commuter Benefit Solutions  
Employers Council on Flexible Compensation  
Enterprise Rideshare  
Getting America to Work  
Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association  
League of American Bicyclists  
MassCommute  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (San Francisco Bay Area)  
National Association of Counties (NACo)  
National Association of Regional Councils  
National League of Cities  
Neponset Valley Transportation Management Association  
New York League of Conservation Voters  
New Jersey Future  
NJ Bike Walk  
NYPIRG/Straphangers Campaign  
Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)  
Raritan Valley Rail Coalition  
Regional Plan Association  
Regional Transportation Authority (Chicago)

Riders Alliance  
San Francisco Department of the Environment  
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency  
San Mateo County Transit District  
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)  
Sierra Club-NJ Chapter  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
SmartGrowth America  
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)  
TransitCenter  
Transit for Connecticut  
Transit Solutions (LI)  
TransOptions  
Transportation Alternatives  
Transportation for America  
Transportation Management Association of Chester County, PA  
Tri-State Transportation Campaign  
US Chamber of Commerce  
US Conference of Mayors  
Utah Transit Authority (UTA)  
Valley Metro Regional Public Transportation Authority  
Virginia Railway Express  
Vision Long Island  
vRide  
WageWorks, Inc.