



November 5, 2014

Dear Senator:

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.