

February 21, 2020

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden:

The undersigned agricultural organizations support the inclusion of broad-based funding mechanisms in any forthcoming funding title associated with S.2302, the America's Transportation Infrastructure Act, passed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in August 2019. Large volumes of commodities and agricultural products are transported from mostly rural areas to numerous origin-destination pairs before these goods reach domestic consumers and export customers. Because of this, a well-maintained, efficient and safe freight transportation system is vitally important to U.S. agriculture.

As you work to advance a surface transportation reauthorization bill, our organizations urge you to create a legislative package that includes funding supported by all road users. We caution against the use of funding, such as a truck-only vehicle miles tax, that would place a disproportionate share of the burden on freight transportation. For our respective agricultural organizations, a truck-only vehicle miles tax would increase truck transportation costs, leading to lower farmgate prices and reduced market share for U.S. agriculture versus our foreign competitors.

As the Finance Committee works to advance a surface transportation reauthorization bill, we urge you to include broad-based funding mechanisms to ensure all who benefit from the transportation system contribute fairly to upgrading and maintaining America's roads and bridges.

Thank you for your efforts on any forthcoming funding title associated with America's Transportation Infrastructure Act and we look forward to working with you as the legislation moves toward final enactment.

Sincerely,

National Associations

Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Honey Producers Association
American Seed Trade Association
Americans for Modern Transportation
Corn Refiners Association
International Dairy Foods Association
Meat Import Council of America, Inc.
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grain and Feed Association
National Industrial Transportation League
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
North American Millers' Association
North American Renderers Association
Pet Food Institute
Produce Marketing Association
Transportation Intermediaries Association
United Fresh Produce Association
United Potato Growers of America
USA Rice
Western Growers

State/Regional Associations

Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
California Apple Commission
California Blueberry Association
California Blueberry Commission
California Fresh Fruit Association
California Grain and Feed Association
Empire State Potato Growers
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Idaho Grower Shippers Association
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association
Iowa Farm Bureau
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives
Iowa Seed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Maine Potato Board
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Potato Growers, Inc.
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
Missouri Agribusiness Association
Nebraska Cattlemen
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association
North Carolina Potato Association
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association

Olive Growers Council of California
Oregon Association of Nurseries
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Oregon Farm Bureau Federation
Oregon Seed Association
Oregon Women for Agriculture
PA Co-operative Potato Growers
Renew Kansas
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association
South Dakota Agri-Business Association
South Dakota Grain & Feed Association
Texas Ag Industries Association
Texas Citrus Mutual
Texas Grain and Feed Association
Texas International Produce Association
Washington State Potato Commission
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association
Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association
Wyoming Farm Bureau

CC: Members of the Senate Finance Committee
Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means
Members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure