

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 20, 2005

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
U.S. Senate Environment and Public
Works Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Jeffords
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Environment and Public
Works Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Bond
Chairman, Transportation and
Infrastructure Subcommittee
U.S. Senate Environment and Public
Works Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus
Ranking Member, Transportation and
Infrastructure Subcommittee
U.S. Senate Environment and Public
Works Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Colleagues:

As you continue working through conference negotiations on the surface transportation reauthorization bill, we urge you to consider adding language specific to the State of Michigan regarding the eligibility of CMAQ funding.

Specifically, we are asking that CMAQ funds may be used by the State of Michigan for the operation and maintenance of intelligent transportation system (ITS) strategies that serve a nonattainment or maintenance area. The continued use of these systems is critical for Michigan to achieve its air quality goals. The initial CMAQ investments made in Michigan helped our state achieve the one-hour standard for ozone by reducing automobile emissions. Our state now faces the challenge of meeting the new 8-hour standard for ozone. Nearly 80 percent of Michigan's population lives in nonattainment areas for the 8-hour ozone standard. By using CMAQ funds for the continued operation and maintenance of ITS systems, we will be able to lower emissions for pollutants that help form ozone. As such, this use is fully consistent with the purpose of the CMAQ program, which is to achieve clean air goals.

We hope that you will add this language to the bill to allow these valuable projects in Michigan to move forward. Otherwise, we hope that you would consider adding general language to allow all states to use CMAQ funding for intelligent transportation systems that reduce congestion and help improve air quality. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow



Carl Levin