Congressman Joe Knollenberg
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515-2211

December 10, 2007

Dear Congressman Knollenberg:

I write in support of legislation to repair and rehabilitate the nation's bridges and funding to improve our inadequate roads network. The often fragile conditions of our nation's infrastructure are beginning to threaten our daily lives and livelihood, and something must be done to reverse these trends. Consideration must be given to this problem before more people are injured or killed.

The American Society of Civil Engineers gave the nation's bridges a grade of C in its 2005 Report Card for America's Infrastructure, and over 153,000 bridges are classified as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Our roads fared even worse, with a grade of D. Poor road conditions cost U.S. motorists $54 billion a year in repairs and operating costs, and congestion costs an additional $63.1 billion a year in lost time and wasted fuel.

Please support legislation to create the National Highway System Bridge Reconstruction Program when it is introduced in the House of Representatives. This important bill would establish a dedicated trust fund to repair, rehabilitate and rebuild ailing bridges.

In addition, please support transportation funding levels approved by the House of Representatives in July throughout the FY 2008 appropriations process. These are the minimum levels that should be considered to start addressing our vast surface transportation needs.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Julie L. Vander Meer

Julie L. Vander Meer
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