

CONNECTICUT TO LOSE \$56 MILLION IN FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDS IN BUSH BUDGET

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Larson Cosponsors Bill to Restore Funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) has signed on as an original cosponsor of H.R. 3694, the Highway Funding Restoration Act, which would restore \$8.6 billion in federal highway funds that would be cut in the Bush Administration's fiscal year 2003 budget. Should the president's budget request be enacted unchanged, Connecticut would lose more than \$56 million in federal highway funds, as well as the many family wage jobs that highway construction generates in the state. Nationally, more than 180,000 highway related jobs would be affected.

Richard Porth, Executive Director of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) stated: "With the recent creation of the State Transportation Strategy Board, Connecticut is considering significant new investments in transportation infrastructure and the timing could not be worse for a cut in federal support. A cut in funding would not only hamper our progress in terms of transportation, but would also threaten our long term economic vitality and our quality of life."

Michael Riley, the president of the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut said: "In a year when Connecticut is working to build a long term transportation plan, a cut in this funding represents a significant loss. This state requires a full measure of commitment to make this system work."

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