

LARSON: INADEQUATE TRANSPORTATION BILL IS A MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE MORE JOBS; MEET STATE'S NEE

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WASHINGTON, D.C.- U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-1) today issued the following statement on the Transportation Equity Act, H.R. 3550, which is being considered on the floor of the House.

"Making solid investments in infrastructure is key to creating jobs locally and strengthening our economy," said Larson. "Because the House GOP Leadership bowed to White House demands to slash funding in the bill, this legislation falls short of these goals. The House bill contains \$100 billion less in funding for our highways and transit programs than the Transportation Committee approved and which I believe is necessary to meet the needs of states and create a significant number of jobs. While the legislation still means important funding for Connecticut, including millions for critical transportation projects in the First District, the legislation on whole is inadequate. It represents a missed opportunity to spur greater job creation.

"Had the Majority not blocked it from being offered, I would have supported the Democratic amendment that would have increased the bill's funding to \$318 billion, the level approved by the Senate. This would bring more funding to the states and created nearly two million more jobs. Connecticut alone would receive an additional \$543 million dollars, creating an estimated 25,000 more jobs. There is a need in every state for increased funding, particularly for states like Connecticut, which is more densely populated than other states and has an older, high-use transportation infrastructure.

"The President has threatened to veto even this inadequate version, yet the administration has no qualms about ballooning the deficit with trillions in tax cuts for the wealthy that do almost nothing in the way of job creation. The administration is standing in the way of legislation that would mean additional transportation dollars for states and provide a much needed boost for our economy," said Larson.

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