

LARSON STATEMENT ON PASSAGE OF TRANSPORTATION BILL

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WASHINGTON, D.C.- U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-1) today issued this statement following passage of the Transportation Equity Act, H.R. 3550, a transportation funding authorization bill. Larson voted in favor of the measure, which passed the House 357-65.

"This bill authorizes millions in funding for Connecticut and important transportation projects in the First District," said Larson. "However, the overall bill is badly underfunded and represents a missed opportunity to invest billions more in our economy. The amount we invest in our transportation infrastructure is directly tied to job growth in our communities, yet this legislation provides \$100 billion less than I believe is necessary to meet that goal. It is unfortunate that GOP Leadership in the House bowed to White House demands to pass legislation with funding levels far below what is adequate to meet the needs of our states and create more jobs. The President has still threatened to veto this bill, even in its inadequate form. A veto would represent a shortsighted decision to stand in the way of whatever economic benefit this measure will hold.

"While the bill does provide much-needed transportation funding for Connecticut over the next six years, it is simply not enough. Connecticut and other Northeastern states have an older transportation infrastructure, are more densely populated, and our roads see more use than roads in other parts of the nation, creating a need for greater funding.

"I did support Democratic efforts to bring a measure to the floor that would have increased the bill's funding to \$318 billion, the level approved by the Senate. Connecticut alone could have received an additional \$543 million dollars, creating thousands more jobs," said Larson.

Funding for First District projects in the bill includes:

- \$6 million for buses and bus related facilities for the New Britain-Hartford Busway
- \$4 million for buses and bus-related facilities for the Hartford Downtown Circulator
- \$2 million to undertake improvements associated with Coltsville Area Redevelopment, Hartford
- \$2 million to upgrade Mark Twain Drive, Hartford
- \$2 million to construct bus-related facility for the Northwestern Connecticut Central Transit District, Torrington
- Expansion of the Northern New England High Speed Rail Corridor to include the train routes from Boston, Massachusetts, to Albany, New York, and from Springfield, Massachusetts, to New Haven, Connecticut
- Authorization for alternatives analysis and preliminary engineering for the New Haven, Connecticut-Hartford, Connecticut-Springfield, Massachusetts Commuter Line

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