

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 26, 2014

The Honorable Dave Camp
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

We write to you today to urge the continued inclusion of the increased transit tax benefit in the tax extender package that the House is expected to consider before the end of the year. Restoring this benefit is key to keeping our transit systems running, getting people to work, and reducing congestion on our roads.

As you know, commuters riding trains, buses, subways and other forms of public transit were entitled to \$245 in monthly tax-free benefits to defray the costs of their commute, an amount equal to the parking benefit offered to commuters who chose to drive to work. However, Congressional inaction on the transit benefit led to it being reduced by nearly half, to \$130 in 2014. As a result, many commuters who previously utilized this benefit have been forced to either switch back to driving, pay for fares that exceed the monthly benefit out of their pocket, or pay taxes on the fares that were previously excluded from taxable income.

With 2.7 million commuters using the transit benefit to get from home to work, Congress should take action to ensure that riders of public transportation are provided with the same benefits as other commuters. Moreover, Congress should ensure that the benefit is restored in order to continue efforts to encourage public transportation ridership, which helps get cars off the road, reduce emissions, and eliminate lost time and delays. As Congress seeks to improve our economy and create jobs, helping people get to work must be a priority.

The transit benefit is critical to growing transit, increasing farebox recovery, supporting our economy, and increasing quality of life. We urge its continued inclusion in order to restore certainty for commuters and businesses and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


DAN LIPINSKI
Member of Congress


RANDY HULTGREN
Member of Congress


BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress


JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress