

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001



C. THOMAS KEEGEL
General Secretary-Treasurer

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February 13, 2012

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

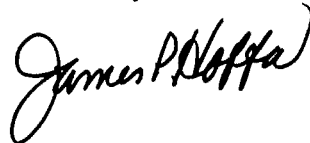
On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the Teamsters Union, a majority of which makes their living working in the nation's transportation industry, I urge you to oppose passage of H.R. 7, the "American Energy and Infrastructure Act." While our preference would have been to support legislation that addresses the critical infrastructure needs of our country and in the process would create the jobs so vitally important in continuing the nation's economic recovery, the Teamsters Union cannot support a fatally flawed bill that rolls back highway and rail safety, that eliminates long-standing worker protections, that disrupts the dedicated funding stream for mass transit, and that mandates other ideological policy goals at the expense of a sound and reasoned surface transportation reauthorization.

How do eliminating OSHA protections for hazmat workers improve this nation's crumbling roads and bridges? How do loopholes in "Buy America" protections put hundreds of thousands of construction workers back on the job? How does abrogating collective bargaining agreements between Amtrak and its food and beverage employees advance passenger rail service in this country, when this bill guarantees a private contractor that its losses will be paid for with taxpayer dollars? How does eliminating overtime pay and other FLSA protections for already overworked, underpaid and fatigued van drivers who transport rail crews improve highway or rail safety? How does mandating that State Transportation Departments use private sector firms for engineering and design services, thereby displacing state employees that do the same work, advance the replacement of one mile of our disintegrating highways? And how does balancing the cost of an ill-advised funding scheme for transit on the backs of federal employees' pensions advance a multi-modal surface transportation policy that will ease congestion on our over-crowded highways?

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We expect that amendments may be offered to try and remedy some of the flagrant anti-safety, anti-worker provisions, but with little hope of approval of these and other amendments addressing major policy deficiencies, we cannot support legislation that is replete with special interest provisions rather than advancing surface transportation policies that are in the public interest. The Teamsters Union strongly urges you to vote against H.R. 7.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Hoffa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James P. Hoffa
General President

JPH/fm