***SAMPLE LETTER***

DATE

Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Room

Address

Washington, DC

Dear Senator/Rep. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

Thank you for all the work you have done to combat the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak. The legislation you have passed to help hospitals, workers, families and businesses will make a huge difference as our country works to recover from this historic crisis.

Thank you for including $25 billion in assistance for public transit systems. Our transit systems in Minnesota are suffering from dramatic drops in ridership and the federal funding will allow transit systems across the state to keep workers on staff and maintain their operations safely with funding for more personal protective equipment so that when the crisis is over, transit systems can quickly gear up and serve people who rely on transit to live their lives.

In Minnesota, we know that our economy will be damaged by the loss of economic activity due to businesses closing. The work of designing, building and operating Minnesota’s transportation system employs thousands of workers through many private businesses. As we head into a new spring highway construction season, we want to ensure that planned transportation projects will continue to move forward. We greatly appreciate the designation of construction work on roadways and bridges as well as public transit service as essential critical infrastructure work so the state and local governments can continue to move forward maintaining the infrastructure needed to move supplies and people at this critical time.

There are few initiatives that can match the combination of immediate and long-term benefits of increased infrastructure investment. One of the best ways to restore faith in the economy when the public-health emergency abates would be to ensure that it coincides with the largest public investment in infrastructure in generations. Public investment in infrastructure is a highly effective way to increase private-sector investment and business activity — and inspire confidence in the future.

As you develop a fourth federal stimulus bill, please include funding for the nation’s transportation system. The investment backlog for transportation infrastructure continues to increase—reaching $786 billion for highways and bridges and $116 billion for transit according to the United States Department of Transportation. In addition, the current 5-year surface transportation authorization act – the FAST Act – will expire at the end of September, 2020. Action is needed to develop and pass a new authorization act to keep funds from the federal Highway Trust Fund flowing to all of the states. Particularly at this critical moment in our nation’s history, we can’t afford a disruption or uncertainty over federal funds that maintain our transportation systems. An increased investment in our transportation infrastructure will allow America’s businesses and families to recover more quickly as products and people will need to move.

We know that with dramatically reduced traffic levels, revenue from the federal gas tax will be down from projected levels. Additional funding will be needed to not only compensate for the decrease in gas tax revenue, but to start to address the backlog of need. Please use every opportunity available to support this needed investment in our transportation systems.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

NAME

ADDRESS