



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Steelgram

Immediate Attention Requested

September 23, 2009

**To: Members of the House Steel Caucus
House staff assigned to steel issues**

**PLEASE SUPPORT H.R. 3617, A THREE MONTH EXTENSION OF THE SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION ACT.**

Background. The current surface transportation act expires on September 30, 2009. Given the continuing high levels of unemployment and the critical nature of the country's infrastructure needs, a short-term extension must be passed and then work must begin on a long-term reauthorization bill as soon as possible.

Providing federal funds for infrastructure projects provides jobs and revenue to state and local communities, and has a positive impact on a wide array of individuals from steel producers, to suppliers, to manufacturers of goods, all which will aid in the recovery of our national economy. As you may know, a Department of Transportation study reported that every \$1 billion invested in federal highways supports nearly 35,000 American jobs. Timely infrastructure funding will truly be the second stimulus package.

Further, for years we haven't invested enough funding to sustain our current infrastructure, let alone keep up with our expanding needs. The American Society of Civil Engineers has estimated that \$1.6 trillion is needed over a five year period to bring the nation's infrastructure to a "good condition." In order to continue to be a global leader, the U.S. must upgrade its crumbling infrastructure. Congress should support providing adequate levels of funding in the reauthorization for all federal infrastructure needs, including highways, waterways, rail, aviation, and pipelines.

Situation. The House may vote as early as today on an extension of the surface transportation act.

Request: Please support a three month extension of the surface transportation act, and then begin work on a long-term reauthorization bill as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of American manufacturing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Gibson".

Thomas J. Gibson
President and CEO