



The Honorable Barack Obama
President
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

August 3, 2009

RE: Highway Trust Fund Bill

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the members of the New York State Society of Professional Engineer's, Inc. (NYSSPE), an organization of more than 2,200 licensed professional engineers, I would like to applaud last week's vote by Congress to infuse the Highway Trust Fund with \$7 billion from the general treasury, to ensure that the current maintenance and construction projects would not be curtailed in any way. These projects are necessary to uphold the health, safety and welfare of the American people who depend on our nation's infrastructure. The projects ensure that our roads and bridges are safe and reliable for the millions of people who use them each day, but they are also necessary to keep people working to continue your efforts to lead us out of the economic recession.

As you know, last summer a similar situation occurred, in which the fund needed an \$8 billion cash infusion from the general treasury to keep it functioning properly and it is estimated that 2010 will be no different. The NYSSPE urges you to sign HR3357, however, more importantly, we urge the timely enactment of a comprehensive and sustainable long term surface transportation funding program.

The surface transportation system in the U.S. is a vital part of commerce in every state in the nation, and this is never going to change. Its deterioration jeopardizes the safety of the millions who use it on a daily basis. The annual depletion of the Highway Trust Fund cannot be ignored any longer. We believe that you should take action and restore this program so it reflects its original intent; to maintain a strong and safe transportation infrastructure across the nation.

Sincerely,



Dr. James J. Yarmus, PE
President

CC: The Honorable David Patterson, Governor of the State of New York
The Hon. Stanley Gee, Acting Commissioner NYS Dept. of Transportation
New York Congressional Delegation