

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3313

April 19, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

Thank you for your service to our country. We commend your efforts during negotiations over the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 to eliminate some of the language in the bill that would have directed funds to the Gateway Program.

However, the upcoming special message to Congress proposing rescissions of budget authority presents an additional opportunity to ensure that federal funds do not go to this project, which as you know, has seen its cost estimate more than double from \$13.5 billion in 2011¹ to \$29.5 billion² in 2017. New York and New Jersey are, respectively, the fourteenth and third³ wealthiest states in the country, and according to the Secretary of Transportation, are currently contributing zero percent of the funds for the Hudson Tunnel and five percent of the funds for the Portal North Bridge.⁴ Construction on this project would also occur in the most expensive rail construction environment in the world.⁵

In light of these facts, we urge you to advise the president to include in his message rescissions of budget authority from the appropriations accounts in the Consolidated Appropriations Act ("the Act") that could provide funding for the Gateway Program. Specifically, we urge you to advise the president to propose the following rescissions in his message:

¹ FY12 Amtrak Budget Request, Feb. 7, 2011:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20121003054029/https://www.amtrak.com/ccurl/579/14/AmtrakFY12%20Leg%20and%20Grant%20Final.pdf>

² Eno Center for Transportation, "USDOT Pulls Out of Gateway Program As Hudson Tunnel Cost Balloons to \$13B", <https://www.enotrans.org/article/usdot-pulls-gateway-program-hudson-tunnel-cost-balloons-13b/>

³ American Community Survey Fact Finder, 2016 data:

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>

⁴ Secretary Chao Testimony to House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, March 6th, 2018, <https://www.c-span.org/video/?442129-1/secretary-chao-testifies-trump-administration-infrastructure-plan>

⁵ *The New York Times*, "The Most Expensive Mile of Subway Track on Earth"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/28/nyregion/new-york-subway-construction-costs.html>

- To rescind \$225 million in budget authority from the Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair account, in effect bringing budget authority provided by the Act to \$25 million, in line with the presidential budget request for FY18 and the FY17 enacted level.
- To rescind \$388 million in budget authority from the Northeast Corridor Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation account, in effect bringing FY18 funding provided by the Act for the account to \$262 million, \$388 million being the reported Amtrak estimate of funding in the FY18 omnibus that could go to Gateway.
- To rescind such other amounts of budget authority as may be necessary from the additional \$400 million in mass transit grant funding provided for State of Good Repair Grants in the Act (as authorized under 49 U.S.C 5337) without unduly affecting mass transit expenditure in other projects around the country.

Sincerely,

<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Mary VA-5</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Dept Norman SC #5</u>
<u>[Signature] VA-7</u>	<u>[Signature] OH-4</u>
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Jim Butts IN-03 Gen Wagner MO-2
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Dr. Paul Gosar, D. D. S. [AZ-4]
Rep. Dave Brat [VA-7]
Rep. Scott DesJarlais [TN-4]
Rep. Ted Yoho [FL-3]
Rep. Louie Gohmert [TX-1]
Rep. Jeff Duncan [SC-3]
Rep. Thomas Garrett [VA-5]
Rep. Jim Jordan [OH-4]
Rep. Scott Perry [PA-4]
Rep. Rod Blum [IA-1]
Rep. Bill Posey [FL-8]
Rep. Joe Barton [TX-6]
Rep. Jim Banks [IN-3]
Rep. Brian Babin [TX-36]
Rep. Lamar Smith [TX-21]
Rep. Gary Palmer [AL-6]
Rep. Jody Hice [GA-10]
Rep. Mike Johnson [LA-4]
Rep. Mo Brooks [AL-5]
Rep. Andy Biggs [AZ-5]
Rep. Daniel Webster [FL-11]
Rep. Warren Davidson [OH-8]
Rep. Mark Meadows [NC-11]
Rep. Ann Wagner [MO-2]
Rep. Ken Buck [CO-4]