

GREG PENCE  
6TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES  
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE, EURASIA,  
ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT



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House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1406

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March 12, 2020

The Honorable David Price  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart,

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2021 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, I write to request that you consider the following priorities:

1. Support robust increases for the **Railway-Highway Crossing Program**. As the Crossroads of America, our rail industry is one of the busiest in the nation, holding true to our nickname with the movement of over 328 million tons of freight annually. According to the 2018 Indiana State Freight Plan, our state ranks 9th in the U.S. for railroad miles yet that same year we ranked 6th in the nation for railroad crossing collisions. Due to persistent community disruptions and blocked crossings, funding the Railway-Highway Crossing Program at the highest possible level is a top priority for Indiana's 6<sup>th</sup> District.

2. Support the following report language for the **Contract Tower Program**:

*That such funds as necessary made available by this Act shall be provided to ensure the continued operation of all towers in the contract tower program that are located at airports in service during Fiscal Year 2021 and any qualified airport candidates, and remain in operation during the duration of this Act.*

Continued funding for this program will increase the safety and efficiency of air traffic control services for the airports in Indiana's 6<sup>th</sup> District – both the Delaware County Airport (also known as Johnson Field) and the Columbus Municipal Airport.

3. Support the **Capital Investment Grant (CIG)** Program, commonly known as the New Starts, Small, Starts, and Core Capacity, at the FAST Act authorized level of \$2,300,000,000. Indiana is currently utilizing funding from the CIG program for four major transit projects. Funding at this level would benefit all CIG projects by generating job growth, providing new business to the corridor, and relieving congestion caused by freight movement.

4. Support the following report language for **Critical Commerce Corridors (CCC)**:

*Critical commerce corridors – The Committee believes critical commerce corridors, an authorized use of funds in the nationally significant freight and highway projects program, can improve our economic*

*efficiency, reduce travel times, and promote safe travel on our nation's roads and highways. These corridors include existing highways where a barrier physically separates lanes dedicated to heavy commercial trucks from lanes dedicated to passenger vehicles. The Committee encourages DOT to strongly consider applications for the creation of critical commerce corridors when awarding grants to individual states.*

5. Provide a one-year delay on implementation of **Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs)** for livestock haulers with the inclusion of the following bill language:

*EXEMPTION FROM REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTRONIC LOGGING DEVICE. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Transportation by this Act or any other Act during the current fiscal year may be obligated or expended to implement, administer, or enforce the requirements of section 31137 of title 49, United States Code, or any regulation issued by the Secretary pursuant to such section, with respect to the use of electronic logging devices by operators of commercial motor vehicles, as defined in section 31132(1) of such title, transporting livestock as defined in section 602 of the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act of 1988 (7 U.S.C. 1471) or insects.*

Livestock haulers in Indiana's Sixth District and nationwide have the difficult task of ensuring motorist safety while also tending to the health and welfare of the animals transported. Unfortunately, ELD regulations and hours of service rules simply do not fit the live animal hauling community. The proposed delay would also lessen the burden on the livestock industry as it awaits further decisions on current rules being examined by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regarding Hours of Service.

6. Support President Trump's Fiscal Year 2021 budget request of \$1,000,000,000 for **Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA)** grants. INFRA grants improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of transportation, reduce highway congestion, generate national and regional economic benefits, improve connectivity between modes of transportation, and enhances resiliency of critical highway infrastructure.
7. Provide robust funding for the **Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program**. Many Veteran Hoosiers in my district rely on programs like VASH to meet their housing and clinical service needs. With continued funding, the program can distribute rental assistance vouchers to eligible homeless veterans in Indiana and throughout the country. Providing housing assistance paired with VA-funded health care, counseling, and case management is crucial in the coordinated national effort to end veteran homelessness.
8. Support President Trump's funding level of \$1,000,000,000 for the **Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant Program**. Last year the state of Indiana Department of Transportation received \$16,000,000 from the BUILD program to minimize traffic congestion and support rapid growth in the surrounding local community. Continued funding for this grant program will provide capital directly to public entities that invest in roads, rail, transit, and port projects. Without continued investment and maintenance in our nation's crumbling infrastructure, Hoosier's quality of life and economic competitiveness will be hindered.
9. Support President Trump's Fiscal Year 2021 budget request of \$350,000,000 for the **Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program**. In my district, the historic Madison Railroad received this grant to repair the structurally deficient, 130-year-old Graham Creek Bridge located roughly 17 miles outside of Madison, Indiana. The CRISI Grant Program is necessary to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of passenger and freight rail systems, particularly in rural areas like Madison.
10. Support robust funding for the administration's new **Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative**. The ROUTES initiative recognizes the infrastructure needs of

rural communities by providing technical assistance to help these communities efficiently apply for competitive federal grant programs. With the nickname Crossroads of America, Indiana is duly impacted by the disparities in rural transportation infrastructure.

11. Support robust funding for Hyperloop within the **Magnetic Levitation Technology Deployment Program**. As you know, Hyperloop integrates existing technologies to transport people and cargo across states within one day. Hyperloop functions by using a capsule that is placed inside a tube, in which a vacuum extracts the air to create a low-pressure environment. Magnetic levitation and electromagnetic motors propel the capsule to its destination with nearly zero friction. It can enable travel up to 760 mph, which means, for example, one could live in Columbus, Indiana and work in Chicago, taking hyperloop from one city to the next in under an hour. Investing in this program would enable economic opportunity throughout the entire country.

Thank you for your consideration of my requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Pence", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Greg Pence  
Member of Congress