

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2008

Honorable Mary E. Peters
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. James Simpson
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

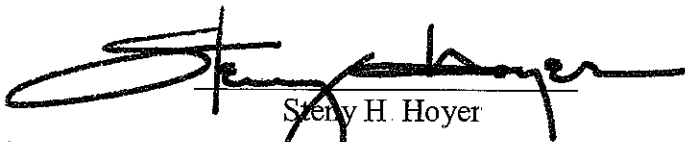
Dear Secretary Peters and Administrator Simpson:

As members of the Washington Area Congressional Delegation, we write to encourage your continued assistance in moving forward with the proposed rail extension to Washington Dulles International Airport.

As the enclosed letter from the governors of Maryland and Virginia and the mayor of the District of Columbia attests, the Dulles rail extension is a critical project for the National Capital Region. As you are aware, we, along with our colleagues in Northern Virginia, represent the nation's second most congested region and it is vital that we work together to support key projects that help address the growing transportation needs of our communities and constituents.

Thank you for your commitment to assist and advance the Dulles Rail project.

Sincerely yours,


Steny H. Hoyer


Albert Russell Wynn


Chris Van Hollen


Eleanor Holmes Norton

Enclosure



January 11, 2008

Honorable Mary E Peters
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington D.C. 20590

Mr. James S Simpson
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Peters and Administrator Simpson:

Thank you for your leadership in improving our nation's transportation system. We are compelled to write you today regarding an issue of critical importance to Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia – the extension of rail to Washington Dulles International Airport.

We are grateful that, after many years of planning, process and funding challenges, our region is seeing the construction of key regional projects including reconstruction of the Frederick Douglass Bridge in the District of Columbia, the Intercountry Connector in Maryland, Capital Beltway improvements in Virginia, and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge connecting both sides of the Potomac. These projects are desperately needed for the mobility, safety and security of the National Capital Region which currently ranks as the nation's second most congested region.

Unfinished business remains, however, with the need to extend rail to Washington Dulles International Airport. This improvement has been planned for years at both the local and state levels and at the FTA. All public reviews have been completed and all state and local financial commitments have been made. The strong votes by our regional planning bodies and the Metro Board underscore this commitment. Completion of this project will not only address a number of key mobility and transit oriented development goals for our region but will also finally provide the United States with a transit gateway to our Nation's Capital on par with other world capitals.

We urge your expedited review and approval of this most important project. Thank you

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor of Virginia

Martin O'Malley
Governor of Maryland

Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor of the District of Columbia

cc: Congressional Delegation, National Capital Region