



August 20, 2010

Dear Governor [LAST NAME]:

I am writing to request that as you meet the charge under Public Law 111-226 to rescind \$[XX,XXX,XXX] from [STATE]'s transportation budget that you work with your Department of Transportation to ensure that your decisions are equitable across programs and responsive to stakeholder input. I realize that it is challenging to meet the tight timeframe the federal government set for these decisions, but the principles of proportionality across programs and responsive government should apply to all transportation rescissions.

Among the transportation programs subject to the rescission are three that support critical bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure investments: Transportation Enhancements, the Recreational Trails Program, and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. Active transportation systems are exceedingly popular investments that offer the most cost-effective way to provide for many short trips and to make the most of public transportation. Active transportation also reduces pollution, improves public health, and creates jobs. And yet, investments in active transportation often have been sorely inadequate to meet the need for safe and convenient places to walk or bicycle. I urge you to preserve these key programs by rescinding no more than their proportionate share of your state's federal transportation funding.

In addition, I encourage you to listen to stakeholders in considering how to implement the rescission. USDOT directed their regional offices to implore states to make such outreach a priority despite the short August 25th timeframe in which these decisions are to be made. There is already an outpouring of public concern about the implications of this rescission for bicycle and pedestrian programs. Please heed the call to preserve the ability to move forward in developing needed active transportation projects by ensuring that rescissions are equitable across programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Laughlin".

Keith Laughlin
President
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

P.S. I have enclosed a list of all Transportation Enhancement projects funded in your state through transportation bills since the program's inception, as well as a chart showing funding by Transportation Enhancement category. I would be interested in your feedback on the impact that this program has had on your state.

cc: [HEAD OF STATE DOT]

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy represents more than 150,000 members and supporters dedicated to creating a nationwide network of trails to build healthier places for healthier people.