



MEMORANDUM

From: Alicia Cunningham

Re: House and Senate Begin to Conference on SAFETEA

Date: June 24, 2004

INTRODUCTION

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have passed federal highway funding legislation, called the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act or SAFETEA. Because there are major differences in the two versions, a Conference Committee, made up of Members of the House and Senate, has been formed to reconcile the differences and bring one bill back to the House and Senate for passage.

The Conference Committee has begun meeting and will continue to meet after the July 4th recess. We need State Horse Councils to contact their Representatives and Senators involved in this conference to express support for two provisions important to the equestrian community.

BACKGROUND

This legislation contains all funding for transportation projects, and is therefore widely known as the highway-funding bill. Though the bill primarily addresses highway and infrastructure funding, SAFETEA also contains the authorization for funds for the Recreational Trail Program (RTP). The RTP is important to the recreational rider – the program creates and improves trails for riders and allows the states to decide where the new trails should be or what trails need maintenance work.

We support funding for the Recreation Trails Program of \$503 million over six years, the level in the House-passed bill.

In addition to the funding for the Recreational Trails Program, the new transportation reauthorization proposal contains a provision specifically important to the equestrian community. Under current federal transportation law, equestrians are not included in the definition of allowable activities on "shared use paths". Some land managers have used this exclusion to deny access to equestrians, though that was never the intent of the federal government. The Senate legislation solves this problem.

We support the provision in the Senate-passed bill that specifically recognizes that horseback riding is an allowable activity on shared-use paths.

ACTION NEEDED

Fax numbers of all Members of Congress involved in the conference as well as sample letters for the House members and Senate members are attached. If a member from your state is on the list, please fax the appropriate letter as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the American Horse Council at 202-296-4031.

Date

The Honorable . . .
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative :

As you conference with the Senate on H.R. 3550, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users (TEA-LU), we ask that you support a provision that was included in the Senate-passed legislation which would include equestrians in the definition of Shared Use Path and increase funding for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

We support Section 1607(B) of the Senate-passed bill that provides the term shared use path means a multiuse trail or other path that is “usable for transportation purposes (including by pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, *equestrians*, and other nonmotorized users).”

Under the current TEA-21 law, because equestrians are not specifically included in the list, some land managers are using this as an excuse to exclude equestrians, although that was never the intent of the law. The Senate bill corrects this problem by adding "equestrians" to the definition. We ask that you support its inclusion in the final legislation.

A strong equine recreation industry is important to the American economy. According to the study *The National Economic Impact of the Horse Industry* over 2.9 million horses are involved in recreational riding, 4.3 million people participate providing \$23.8 billion to the economy and producing 317,000 total full-time jobs. [Include any economic information about the economic effects in your state.] These recreational riders need more places to ride – not fewer.

We also strongly support the funding level for the Recreational Trails Program in the House-passed legislation which provides \$503 million over six years. Federal fuel taxes are paid by millions of trail enthusiasts on fuel used in trailbikes and snowmobiles, ATVs and 4x4s and other non-highway recreation devices. The Federal Highway Administration has estimated that the collection of federal fuel taxes from these uses amounts to \$286 million annually.

We ask you to support RTP funding at a level equal to or higher than the level provided in the House bill. This funding level will provide greater equity to recreationists who now are perhaps the largest “donors” under the nation’s surface transportation programs, a situation that undermines the “user fee” premise of the Highway Trust Fund.

Thank you for your support on these two important issues. If you have any questions about the recreational horse industry in [**your state**], please contact us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Date

The Honorable . . .
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator :

As you conference with the House of Representatives on H.R. 3550, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users (TEA-LU), we ask that you support a provision that was included in the Senate-passed legislation which would include equestrians in the definition of Shared Use Path and increase funding for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

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Thank you for your support on these two important issues. If you have any questions about the recreational horse industry in [your state], please contact us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Conferees from the House of Representatives	
Member Name	Member Fax Number
Bachus, Spencer (R-AL)	202-225-2082
Ballenger, Cass (R-NC)	202-225-0316
Barton, Joe (R-TX)	202-225-3052
Beauprez, Bob (R-CO)	202-225-5278
Biggert, Judy (R-IL)	202-225-9420
Boehlert, Sherwood (R-NY)	202-225-1891
Brown, Corrine (D-FL)	202-225-2256
Coble, Howard (R-NC)	202-225-8611
Conyers, John (D-MI)	202-225-0072
Costello, Jerry (D-IL)	202-225-0285
Davis, Tom (R-VA)	202-225-3071
DeFazio, Peter (D-OR)	202-225-0032
DeLay, Tom (R-TX)	202-225-5241
Dingell, John (D-MI)	202-226-0371
Dreier, David (R-CA)	202-225-2305
Duncan, John (R-TN)	202-225-6440
Ehlers, Vernon (R-MI)	202-225-5144
Filner, Bob (D-CA)	202-225-9073
Frost, Martin (D-TX)	202-225-4951
Gibbons, James (R-NV)	202-225-5679
Gilchrest, Wayne (R-MD)	202-225-0254
Gordon, Bart (D-TN)	202-225-6887
Hoekstra, Peter (R-MI)	202-226-0779
Johnson, E.B. (D-TX)	202-226-1477
Kind, Ron (D-WI)	202-225-5739
LaTourette, Steven (R-OH)	202-225-3307
Lipinski, William (D-IL)	202-225-1012
McCrery, Jim (R-LA)	202-225-8039
Menendez, Robert (D-NJ)	202-226-0792
Mica, John (R-FL)	202-225-4035
Miller, Gary (R-CA)	202-226-6962
Miller, George (D-CA)	202-225-5609
Nadler, Jerrold (D-NY)	202-225-6923
Neugebauer, Randy (R-TX)	202-225-9615
Norton, Eleanor Holmes (D-DC)	202-225-3002
Nussle, Jim (R-IA)	202-225-9129

Oberstar, James (D-MN)	202-225-0699
Petri, Thomas (R-WI)	202-225-2356
Pickering, Charles (R-MS)	202-225-5797
Pombo, Richard (R-CA)	202-226-0861
Rahall, Nick (D-WV)	202-225-9061
Rangel, Charles B. (D-NY)	202-225-0816
Rehberg, Dennis (R-MT)	202-225-5687
Schrock, Edward (R-VA)	202-225-4218
Sensenbrenner, F. James ((R-WI)	202-225-3190
Sessions, Pete (R-TX)	202-225-5878
Shays, Christopher (R-CT)	202-225-9629
Smith, Lamar (R-TX)	202-225-8628
Spratt, John (D-SC)	202-225-0464
Thomas, William (R-CA)	202-225-8798
Waxman, Henry (D-CA)	202-225-4099
Young, Don (R-AK)	202-225-0425

Conferees from the Senate	
Member Name	Member Fax Number
Baucus, Max (D-MT)	202-228-3687
Bond, Christopher "Kit" (R-MO)	202-224-8149
Boxer, Barbara (D-CA)	415-956-6701
Conrad, Kent (D-ND)	202-224-7776
Daschle, Thomas (D-SD)	202-224-6603
Graham, Bob (D-FL)	202-224-2237
Grassley, Charles (R-IA)	202-224-6020
Hatch, Orrin G. (R-UT)	202-224-6331
Hollings, Ernest (D-SC)	202-224-4293
Inhofe, James (R-OK)	202-228-0380
Jeffords, James (I-VT)	202-228-0776
Lieberman, Joseph (D-CT)	202-224-9750
Lott, Trent (R-MS)	202-224-2262
McCain, John (R-AZ)	202-228-2862
McConnell, Mitch (R-KY)	202-224-2499
Nickles, Don (R-OK)	202-224-6008
Reid, Harry (D-NV)	202-224-7327
Sarbanes, Paul S. (D-MD)	202-224-1651
Shelby, Richard (R-AL)	202-224-3416
Voinovich, George V. (R-OH)	202-228-1382
Warner, John W. (R-VA)	202-224-6295

