

OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
MAINE

154 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-5344

Web Site: <http://snowe.senate.gov>

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

FISHERIES AND COAST GUARD
SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE

RANKING MEMBER, SMALL BUSINESS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1903

March 11, 2011

The Honorable Raymond LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I sincerely appreciate your support for the Memorial Bridge Replacement project in Maine and New Hampshire as well as your visit to the bridge in October of 2010 to award funds for the project. These funds will certainly help to ensure the continuing economic success of the region. During your visit, you noted that the current bridge is "one of the worst bridges in America," underscoring that replacement of the bridge is a critical safety and economic upgrade for the region.

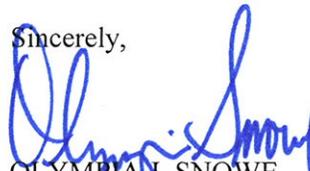
Unfortunately, in the nearly five months since your visit, funding for the project has been threatened by a rescission in the House-passed continuing resolution, H.R. 1. While this bill failed to pass in the Senate, I remain concerned that unobligated funds for the TIGER II program remain in jeopardy because of paperwork delays within the DOT.

During the March 8 Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee hearing on the Department of Transportation's fiscal year 2012 budget proposal, we discussed the status of the Memorial Bridge funding. I remain concerned that red tape is unnecessarily delaying the obligation of these critical funds, and ask you to expedite the approval of all required paperwork for the project. The environmental review, one of the major portions of the Federal obligation process, has been submitted and awaits approval. This document, which evaluates the impact of the replacement bridge on the lands surrounding the structure, is remarkably similar to the already-approved rehabilitation environmental review completed in 2008.

It is critical that we honor the commitment made to the communities of the Kittery/Portsmouth region and rebuild the Memorial Bridge in a timely fashion. Both Maine and New Hampshire have moved quickly to submit paperwork, and I hope you will be able to assist us in promptly achieving our shared goal.

I appreciate your support, and look forward to swift obligation of the Federal funding awarded under a competitive grant program for replacement of the Memorial Bridge.

Sincerely,



OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator

AUBURN
TWO GREAT FALLS PLAZA
SUITE 7B
AUBURN, ME 04210
(207) 786-2451

AUGUSTA
40 WESTERN AVENUE, SUITE 408C
AUGUSTA, ME 04330
(207) 622-8292

BANGOR
ONE CUMBERLAND PLACE, SUITE 306
BANGOR, ME 04401
(207) 945-0432

BIDDEFORD
227 MAIN STREET
BIDDEFORD, ME 04005
(207) 282-4144

PORTLAND
3 CANAL PLAZA, SUITE 601
PORTLAND, ME 04101
(207) 874-0883
MAINE RELAY SERVICE
TDD 1-955-3323

PRESQUE ISLE
169 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 3
PRESQUE ISLE, ME 04769
(207) 764-5124

IN MAINE CALL TOLL-FREE 1-800-432-1599

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER