October 20, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As House Republicans, we write because we refuse to stand by and watch as your Administration dilutes America’s ability to ensure the safe and efficient movement of goods, people, and services throughout our transportation network. House Republicans have repeatedly demonstrated a willingness to work on bipartisan solutions to improve our infrastructure. We regret that our efforts have been spurned as Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, and your Administration use infrastructure as a Trojan horse to push radical policies that make it more difficult and expensive for families to find or afford basic goods and for businesses to continue the long road to recovery from the pandemic.

We must address the global supply chain and ports crisis before Congress even considers additional social spending and taxation legislation. Our priority right now should be strengthening our Nation’s economy and increasing our global competitiveness. The policies of your Presidency and party’s leaders in Congress are exacerbating or simply ignoring the underlying supply chain crisis. These policies include the mishandling of the COVID response in ways that are prolonging unemployment and worker shortages across the economy, to your push for a multi-trillion-dollar spending spree that is driving up prices of everything from gas to groceries. These efforts only serve to weaken American competitiveness and shrink our economy, and they will certainly ensure that this Christmas will not be merry.

The current supply chain crisis exposes how close to its limit our transportation system operates. There is little redundant capacity. Once bottlenecks develop, cargo backs up and remains stranded offshore on ships that overcrowd the coastline, creating additional safety and environmental risks. For example, clustering a large number of container ships waiting to be unloaded increases the risk of large anchors damaging our underwater infrastructure, such as pipelines. This unfortunately was likely the case with the recent Huntington Beach oil spill. Rather than responding to an oil spill, prevention is the best way to avoid environmental damage. We believe this environmental and economic harm could have been avoided in the first place had this Congress and this Administration remained focused on our core transportation network assets. Yet, this oil spill is emblematic of the harm your party’s policies are creating for America’s broader infrastructure network and the economy.

Moreover, despite calls from the private sector for help addressing growing supply chain issues, like expanding capacity, your Administration has only further fueled the crisis by increasing energy costs, triggering significant inflation through reckless unchecked spending, and attacking American businesses. Ironically, it is now the private sector that you are calling on to “step up” and fix the supply chain problems.2

Mr. President, we think it’s time that you step up and reevaluate your Administration’s priorities. While many in both business and labor have agreed to step up, House Republicans are calling on you, your Administration, and your allies in Congress to do the same. Your Administration must step up for American workers and businesses by halting your reckless tax and spending plan currently pending before Congress. We request that you stop the litany of harmful regulatory actions that are driving up energy costs and to stop disarming the same American businesses you are asking to bail you out with vaccine mandates and excessive benefits that are disincentivizing work. While you might not be able to save this holiday season, you can reverse course and prevent further economic damage.

Further consideration of your massive expansion of social spending, paid for by anti-competitive tax increases on small businesses and families, only stands to worsen the supply chain crisis. We urge you to call on your Congressional allies to halt discussions on a budget reconciliation bill that aims to reshape the social fabric of this country and instead work on real infrastructure solutions that focus on moving goods and people safely and efficiently throughout our great country and around the world.

Sincerely,

Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Bruce Westerman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources

Kevin McCarthy  
House Republican Leader

Steve Scalise  
House Republican Whip

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Mike Bost  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Small Business

Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Rules

A. Drew Ferguson, IV.  
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ethics

Garret Graves  
Ranking Member  
Select Committee on Climate

Devin Nunes  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress
Nancy Mace
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

James R. Baird
Member of Congress
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

Van Taylor
Member of Congress

John Joyce
Member of Congress

Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress

Burgess Owens
Member of Congress

Fred Keller
Member of Congress

Tracey Mann
Member of Congress

Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress

Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress

Mike Johnson
Member of Congress
Young Kim
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

Julia Letlow
Member of Congress

Troy Nehls
Member of Congress

Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress

Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

Bill Posey
Member of Congress

Mark Green, M.D.
Member of Congress

John Rutherford
Member of Congress
Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress

Jay Obernolte  
Member of Congress

Liz Cheney  
Member of Congress

Brad Wenstrup  
Member of Congress

French Hill  
Member of Congress

Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress

Matt Rosendale  
Member of Congress

Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress

Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen  
Member of Congress

Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress
Cc:  The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation