



February 16, 2012

The Honorable David Dreier
Chairman
House Rules Committee
H-312 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dreier:

The United Motorcoach Association (UMA), the American Bus Association (ABA) and the National School Transportation Association (NSTA) write to express our strong opposition to Congressman DeFazio, Congressman Carson and Congressman LaTourette's amendment being made in order during consideration of HR 7, the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012. The amendment would strike many of the positive provisions to permit greater participation of the private sector in the provision of public transportation. UMA, ABA and NSTA support the provisions in the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012 that will enable our members to partner with public transit agencies to provide public transportation services resulting in savings to the taxpayer, greater efficiencies and quality of service.

Our associations represent private companies that are in the business to provide safe, professional, efficient and quality transportation every day to their customers. Together they own and operate over 200,000 bus, motorcoach and school bus vehicles that can be utilized in many areas to augment and enhance public transportation services at a much lower cost to the taxpayer. Many operators are already doing so, but HR 7 contains several provisions that will serve to enhance these opportunities. HR 7 will remove barriers to private sector participation, incentivize transit agencies to seek out contracting with private operators, provide access to private operators to public transportation facilities and provide important guidance and technical assistance and other important provisions. Especially at a time when Federal, state and local public resources for public transportation are strained, it is past time to seek out smart and better ways to do more with less. The private sector is ready, willing and able to be part of the solution.

Congressman Defazio, Congressman Carson and Congressman LaTourette's amendment would gut these important provisions and ensure that the private sector remains on the fringe rather than at the table as a full partner in helping to provide public transportation services in their communities efficiently competitively and professionally. We strongly oppose the amendment and do not support it being made in order.

Sincerely.



Victor S. Parra
President and Chief Executive Officer
United Motorcoach Association



Peter J. Pantuso
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Bus Association



David Hobson
Executive Director
National School Transportation Association

cc:

All Members of the House Rules Committee
Speaker of the House John Boehner
Majority Leader Eric Cantor
Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy