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Dayton RTA Dayton, OH

June 7, 2021

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2165 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio,

We are writing to express our strong support for the historic levels of bus transit investments included in the “Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act” (INVEST in America Act). By helping transit agencies meet a critical need of upgrading and replacing aging buses, this robust funding will ensure we can maintain a level of service that many in our communities depend on to access jobs, health care, education, and other critical destinations.

Buses are the backbone of transit service across America, providing more than one-half of all trips on public transportation. However, largely due to a 57% reduction of federal funding for buses under MAP-21, the number of buses operating past useful life has increased 41% while buses operating past 15 years increased a staggering 82%. In addition, bus fleet size has shrunk by 24% (16,787 buses) in just six years. It’s clear the diversion in resources away from bus programs has taken their toll on transit service.

The INVEST in America Act will help address this challenge by making critical investments for surface transportation infrastructure, including \$109 billion for public transportation overall and over \$11 billion for bus and bus facility infrastructure.

Importantly, the bill also restores the historical share of bus capital funding to 20 percent. The investments into bus infrastructure included in the bill will go a long way toward upgrading and replacing our aging and shrinking bus fleets, boosting economic growth and helping enhance bus service in all communities across the country.

We look forward to working collaboratively with you and your colleagues on both sides of the aisle as this bill advances through the legislative process. Thank you for your leadership and continued support.

Sincerely,



**Bill Carpenter**  
President, The Bus Coalition  
CEO RGRTA Rochester, NY



**Gary Rosenfeld**  
Treasurer, The Bus Coalition  
CEO MATA, Memphis, TN



**Jeff Arndt**  
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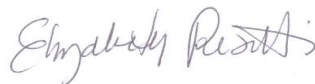
**Richard DeRock**  
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