



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

Sam Graves
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

Rick Larsen
Ranking Member

Nick Christensen, Staff Director

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

August 12, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy:

We write to express concern about the Trump administration's blatant admission that agencies withheld or rescinded funding from select grant recipients for purely political reasons. The recent reporting by the *New York Times* that the administration canceled more than \$7.5 billion in grants to states that did not vote for President Trump in the 2024 election is cause for alarm. We have a mandate to provide oversight of the \$661 billion Congress provided for infrastructure, and expect you to administer fairly, in the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).¹

During your tenure as Secretary, we have routinely asked for details on the actions of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on the review and withholding of grants from critical infrastructure projects, and the answers we have received to date have been incomplete. Starting in late January 2025, DOT actively slowed down the obligation of more than 3,000 grant awards of BIL dollars, for more than nine months,² and in some cases, rescinded previously awarded or obligated grants. For some grant rescissions, DOT cited contractual or regulatory reasons in its announcements but for others, Congress received no explanation or notice, only hearing about grant funds being pulled from project sponsors. The recent admission by the administration implies there is more to the story.

In a recent court filing the Department of Energy stated that previously-awarded and obligated grants were rescinded "based solely on the political identity of the grant recipient's state"³ and

¹ "Trump Administration Admits Cancelling Grants to States That Did Not Vote For Him", *New York Times* July 24, 2026, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/24/business/trump-state-grants-canceled.html> (July 24, 2026 NYT article.)

² "DOT to Cancel 'Small Number' of Biden-Era Grants", *Politico* September 30, 2025, available at <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/09/30/dot-biden-era-awards-canceled-00586761>

³ "Parties' Stipulations and Agreements," *Thakur v. Trump*, 3:25-cv-04737-RL, accessible at <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.cand.450653/gov.uscourts.cand.450653.211.6.pdf>

that the grants were not terminated “based on any programmatic, statutory, cost-reduction or performance-based factor.”⁴ In a further court filing, the DOT agreed and admitted that it had chosen to rescind University Transportation Center grants because the grants “expressed, or were presumed to express” views the administration disagreed with despite applicants having followed the rules at the time of application and award.

Terminating or awarding grants solely based on the political leanings of grant recipients or the opinion of the Secretary of Transportation on acceptable means of transport is an unprecedented skewing of federal transportation dollars and runs contrary to statute and Congressional intent.

Examples of how DOT has abused the grantmaking process to pursue political retribution include:

- Withholding \$15 billion from the Gateway Development Commission (GDC), which was only released after GDC sued the administration and won in court, with the judge calling the decision to withhold the grant “flagrantly illegal”.⁵
- Rescinding \$66.4 million from the Colorado Department of Transportation, which was slated to be used for grade crossing and track improvements and the installation of positive train control.⁶
- Rescinding \$7.5 million for grade separations on existing track in San Jose, California.⁷
- Withholding \$17 million in funding for bike lanes in Connecticut, New Mexico, and Illinois.⁸
- Canceling over \$20 million to the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, for two projects that would expand transit service and support fleet electrification efforts.⁹
- Holding countless awarded projects that support transit service, EV infrastructure, and vulnerable road user safety in limbo and allowing their federal funding to expire.¹⁰

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure needs immediate answers to ensure that DOT grants have not been and will not be politicized. Please provide the following within three weeks of receipt:

⁴ (July 24, 2026 NYT article.)

⁵ “Trump move to halt funding for Gateway project was ‘flagrantly’ illegal, judge says” *New Jersey Monitor*, June 29, 2026, available at <https://newjerseymonitor.com/briefs/trump-gateway-project-funding-freeze-judge/>

⁶ “FRA pulls funding from Front Range rail” *Colorado Rail Passenger Association*, February 13, 2026, available at <https://www.colorail.org/colorado-rail-passenger-news/fra-pulls-funding-from-front-range-rail>

⁷ “DOT Cancels \$175 Million in Funding for California Rail Projects”, *Rural County Representatives of California*, August 29, 2025, available at <https://www.rcrcnet.org/general/dot-cancels-175-million-in-funding-for-california-rail-projects/>

⁸ “Breaking: US DOT Pulls Grants For Projects That Aren’t Focused on Cars” *Streetsblog USA*, September 16, 2025, available at <https://usa.streetsblog.org/2025/09/16/breaking-us-dot-pulls-grants-for-projects-that-arent-focused-on-cars>

⁹ “Trump Administration Cancels \$109 M in Environmentally Focused Transportation Grants for Colorado” *Colorado Sun*, Dec 16, 2025. Available at <https://coloradosun.com/2025/12/16/trump-administration-cuts-transportation-grants-colorado/>

¹⁰ “Grants Are under Attack on Two Fronts: Congress Should Stand up to USDOT and Assert Its Power over the Purse.” *Transportation for America*, 17 Sept. 2025, t4america.org/2025/09/17/grants-are-under-attack-on-two-fronts-congress-should-stand-up-to-usdot-and-assert-its-power-over-the-purse/. Accessed 31 Jul. 2026.

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1. A spreadsheet of grants terminated or rescinded since January 20, 2025.
2. A spreadsheet of grants for which DOT announced funding prior to January 20, 2025 but for which a grant agreement has not yet been signed.
3. For each terminated or rescinded grant since January 20, 2025:
 - Which Executive Order, executive directive, agency priority, or other basis are cited as the reason for the grant's termination.
 - Was the political identity of the recipient's state or local government identified and considered as a factor when deciding to terminate or rescind grants?
 - Term(s) or phrases in the grant identified by DOT's search that resulted in termination.

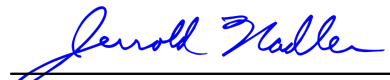
Sincerely,



Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Highways
and Transit



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

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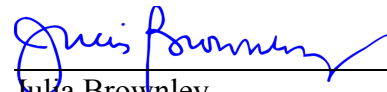
André Carson
Ranking Member, Aviation
Subcommittee



Dina Titus
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Railroads,
Pipelines, and Hazardous
Materials



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



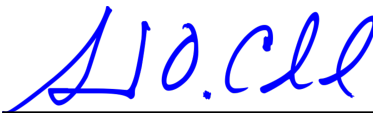
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



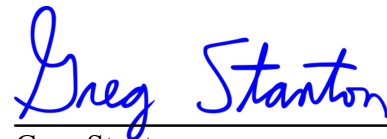
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



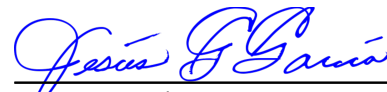
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Coast
Guard and Maritime
Transportation



Greg Stanton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic
Development, Public
Buildings and Emergency
Management



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

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Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



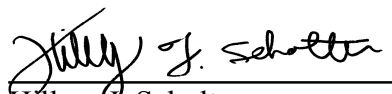
Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



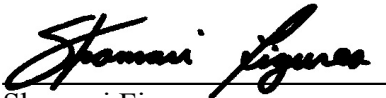
Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Laura Friedman", written in a cursive style.

Laura Friedman
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Laura A. Gillen", written in a cursive style.

Laura A. Gillen
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shomari Figures", written in a cursive style.

Shomari Figures
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Maxwell Alejandro Frost", written in a cursive style.

Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress