

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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February 8, 2018

Hon. Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

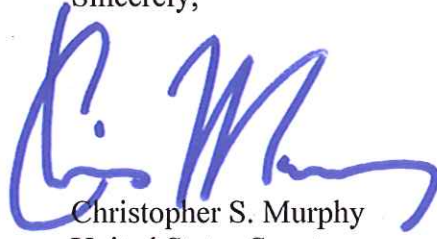
I write to submit recommendations to you that I gathered from community leaders from across Connecticut at a recent Transportation and Infrastructure Summit at the University of Bridgeport. It is not an exaggeration to say that Connecticut's future depends on our transportation system; our state's physical proximity to New York and Boston means little if people and goods cannot move quickly and safely using our existing infrastructure. I urge you to use the comments and the attached survey as you continue to develop the Administration's infrastructure proposal.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Summit I convened brought together local residents, city planners, business leaders, transportation advocates, and community organizations. Participants heard from two expert panels: one defining which infrastructure investments are critical to Connecticut and one outlining the present and future challenges of transportation for our state. Though the discussions were wide-ranging, the conversations yielded several consensus recommendations on what our state needs in the context of any potential infrastructure package. First, summit participants overwhelmingly agreed that any infrastructure package must be funded primarily through direct federal investment. Plans that are over-reliant on public-private partnerships will not address the vast majority of our state's needs, while any plan that shifts the cost burden from the federal government to state and local governments will severely hamper infrastructure investment. Second, all participants agreed that significant investments in rail and bus transit must be included in the administration's proposal. The transformative potential of faster, more frequent, resilient, and safe rail service for Connecticut and for states along the Northeast Corridor can hardly be overstated. Finally, participants at the summit agreed that all modes of transportation—particularly rail—need a stable source of federal funding to facilitate long-term financing and planning. I have included the results of a summit participant survey that provide further context for the aforementioned recommendations.

The intense interest in the Transportation and Infrastructure Summit undoubtedly reflects my state's hope for a truly transformative federal infrastructure plan that addresses Connecticut's needs. I too share that hope, and I commit to working with you and my Senate colleagues to realize that goal.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. S. Murphy". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator