

April 7, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House T-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Chair
Senate T-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
House T-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
Vice-Chair
Senate T-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Cc.
Members of Congress

Dear Senators Murray, Collins, Schatz and Hyde-Smith, and Representatives Granger, DeLauro, Cole and Quigley,

Coalition Helping America Rebuild and Go Electric ([CHARGE](#)) is made up of transportation, industry, environmental, labor, health, equity, and civic organizations that support smart policy to electrify America's transportation system. We wish to weigh in on the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) appropriations process to ensure that Congress fully funds programs in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that are essential to reducing greenhouse gas and criteria emissions while improving our economy, advancing racial and economic equity, and protecting the environment.

We urge Congress to fully fund the following programs at or above IIJA authorized levels:

Charging

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants (also known as Corridor and Community grants) provides competitive grants to states, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and other public entities for installation of charging or alternative fuels infrastructure, with half prioritized for rural and low- and moderate-income communities. This program is critical to begin to fill gaps in the EV charging network such as charging for disadvantaged populations that don't have access to charging at home. **Congress should fund this program at \$500M for FY24.**

Bus conversion

Low or No Emission (Low-No) Grant Program, and Bus and Bus Facilities Program award competitive grants to transit agencies to buy or lease U.S.-built low- or no-emission vehicles, including related equipment or facilities. Agencies can also purchase diesel buses in the Bus and Bus Facilities program. In addition to the amounts guaranteed in the IJA for Buses and Bus Facilities and Low-No program for FY24, **Congress should maintain the funding levels appropriated in previous years, including \$175 million for Buses and Bus Facilities and \$75 million for Low-No.** These combined programs were oversubscribed by four and one half times in FY23 showing a strong need.

Clean School Bus Program funds replacement of existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. Our kids deserve to breathe clean air on the way to school. **Congress should allocate an additional \$300 million above IJA levels to fund this program at \$1.3B for FY24.**

Ports

Truck Emissions Reduction Study and Grant at Port Facilities establishes a plan and program to reduce idling at port and intermodal port facilities, including electrification of port operations. Reducing emissions from port operations is critical to nearby disadvantaged communities that are exposed to this pollution. **Congress should fund this program at \$80M for FY24** (\$50M in advance and \$30M authorized)

Electric or Low Emitting Ferry Pilot Program provides grants for the purchase of "alternative" fuel and electric ferries. Ferries are proportionally a major source of greenhouse gas and other emissions, especially in communities where they are a major component of the transportation system. **Congress should fund this program at \$50M for FY24.**

Travel options

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) provides competitive grants to support local initiatives to prevent transportation-related death and serious injury on roads and streets. These are often referred to as "Vision Zero" or "Toward Zero Deaths" initiatives. Pedestrian deaths have increased 76 percent since 2009. We must create safer streets to give more Americans the option to safely walk and bike in their communities. **Congress should fund SS4A at \$1.2B for FY24** (\$1B in advance, \$200M authorized).

Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIIP) provides competitive grants to support the development of walking and biking infrastructure that connects to accessible, affordable, and safe active transportation networks, allowing people to reach destinations within a community and travel between communities. **Congress should fund ATIIIP at the authorized amount of \$200m for FY24.**

Manufacturing

Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) Loan Program provides low-interest loans for vehicle manufacturers and other companies in the supply chain to retool their facilities, or construct new facilities, to make electric and other clean vehicles and their components. While the Inflation Reduction Act provided \$3 billion for ATVM to cover the cost of subsidizing these federal loans, **Congress still needs to fund the program's \$13M administrative expenses** and ensure LPO can continue reviewing applications, negotiating loan terms, and doing its due diligence to ensure good stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Our broad diverse coalition stands ready to help Congress move us toward a zero-emissions future while strengthening our economy, advancing racial and economic equity and protecting the environment.

Sincerely,

Stacie Reidenbaugh, President and CEO
10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania

Trisha Dellolacono, Federal Policy Director
CALSTART

Roger Luckmann, Co-chair Policy Committee
Elders Climate Action

Kyle Davis, Senior Director for U.S. Federal
Policy
Enel North America

Rachel Patterson, Policy Lead
Evergreen Action

Jeanette Shaw, Director, Government Affairs
Forth

Andrea Marpillero Colomina, Sustainable
Communities Program Director
GreenLatinos

Rachel Yoka, Chief Strategy Office
International Parking & Mobility Institute

Darien Davis, Government Affairs Advocate,
Climate and Clean Energy
League of Conservation Voters

Nate Baguio Baguio, Senior VP of
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Lion Electric

Chris Sandvig, Executive Director
Mobilify Southwestern Pennsylvania

Samantha Herr, Executive Director
North American Bikeshare & Scootershare
Association (NABSA)

Noa Banayan, Director of Federal Affairs
PeopleForBikes

Ingrid Malmgren, Policy Director
Plug In America

Ann Silver, Chief Executive Officer
Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce

Will Anderson, Deputy Legislative Director
Sierra Club

Alexander Laska, Deputy Director, Climate and
Energy Program
Third Way

Beth Osborne, Director
Transportation for America

Peter Wilson, Senior Policy Advisor
Transportation for Massachusetts

Rena Reynolds, Executive Director
Tri-State Transportation Campaign

Leilani Gonzalez, Policy Director
Zero Emission Transportation Association