



ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
PLANNING
ORGANIZATIONS



April 27, 2009

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman:

The Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) would like to thank you for your leadership in climate legislation. We were encouraged to see changes in the American Clean Energy Security Act of 2009 (ACESA).

It is vitally important that all levels of government involved in creating and implementing plans in the transportation sector have available options for reducing emissions. Section 841 calls for a competitive grant program associated with planning, but it does not specify funding amounts or sources. We recommend that at least 10 percent of the total revenues generated through climate legislation be dedicated to the planning and implementation of emission-reducing transportation projects. A cap-and-trade program could generate significant revenue from transportation fuels and those revenues should support additional planning requirements and project delivery. Accordingly, AMPO and NADO support the efforts of the CLEAN TEA legislation (H.R. 1329). CLEAN TEA proposes dedicating 10 percent of revenues from a cap-and-trade.

ACESA's Section 841 calls on states and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to develop goals and plans for reducing emissions from the transportation sector. Allowing for the resources for this to occur is critical. Especially in today's economy with a trust fund supporting planning efforts in a downward spiral—many member MPOs have had to reduce their staff. Meeting additional planning requirements absent resources will be difficult.

Thank you again for your leadership and for addressing transportation policy. We believe that it is important that federal climate change legislation set a framework for the next federal transportation authorization, as this will help ensure our climate and transportation policies operate on parallel instead of conflicting paths. We look forward to working with you as we move forward.

Sincerely,

DeLania Hardy, Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Matthew Chase, Executive Director
National Association of Development Organizations