



September 6, 2017

Dear Congressman:

The national organizations that represent local elected officials and regional transportation officials are writing to highlight a proposed amendment to the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) title of H.R. 3354, the *Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act of 2018*, that would result in fewer dollars available for local transportation priorities. For this reason, **we urge your opposition to Woodall #28 when it comes for a vote later today or tomorrow.**

The THUD bill contains an \$800 million rescission of unobligated contract authority. Certain programs are exempted from the rescission – a historical precedent – including the suballocated portion of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP), as well as several safety-related programs. In addition, for the programs that are not exempted, the rescission is drawn from program balances in a proportional manner that ensures one program is not harmed more than others (this includes Metropolitan Planning and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)).

Woodall #28 would eliminate the historical exemption for STBGP, the Highway Safety Improvement Program, and the Railway-Highway Crossings Program, making them subject to rescission; and end the proportional drawdown of unobligated balances. This amendment puts at risk the limited commitment authorizers made in the recent FAST Act made to provide funding to local projects. Further, it would allow states to draw disproportionately from programs that provide the greatest amount of support for local projects – namely STBGP, Transportation Alternatives, CMAQ, and metropolitan planning.

We urge you to oppose Woodall amendment #28 when it comes up for a vote later today or tomorrow. A no vote will help protect funds for local projects and priorities.

Sincerely,

DeLania Hardy  
Executive Director  
Association of Metropolitan  
Planning Organizations

Matthew Chase  
Executive Director  
National Association  
of Counties

Joe McKinney  
Executive Director  
National Association  
of Development Organizations

Clarence E. Anthony  
Executive Director  
National League  
of Cities

Leslie Wollack  
Executive Director  
National Associations of  
Regional Councils

Tom Cochran  
Executive Director  
The United States  
Conference of Mayors

