

JAMES P. McGOVERN
3RD DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SENIOR DEMOCRATIC WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2103

<http://www.mcgovern.house.gov>

February 9, 2012

438 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2103
(202) 225-6101

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MARLBOROUGH OFFICE:
255 MAIN STREET, ROOM 104
MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752
(508) 460-9292

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader
H-329 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
Democratic Whip
H-148 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Cantor, Leader Pelosi and Whip Hoyer:

As the House prepares to consider important tax and transportation measures in the coming weeks, we urge you to support the quick passage of a budget neutral provision to restore parity between the pre-tax transit and parking benefits. Failure to pass this important provision will result in a policy that rewards drivers and unfairly punishes transit riders.

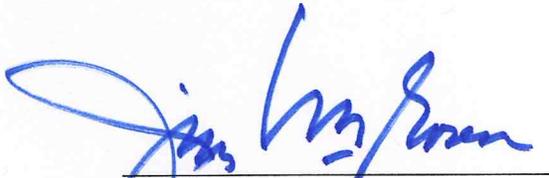
Beginning January 1, 2012, transit riders who use the transit portion of the commuter benefit had the cost of their commute increase because the transit benefit tax provision expired. Transit riders saw the monthly cap on the transit benefit reduced from \$230 per month to \$125 per month -- almost a 50 percent drop. Meanwhile, commuters who drive to work and park their cars received an increase in their monthly benefit from \$230 per month to \$240 per month, due to an automatic cost of living increase. Benefit parity can be established at no cost to the federal government simply by setting the maximum benefit possible for both modes at \$200 per month.

If we do not act quickly, millions of transit and vanpool riders will continue to be taxed more than their fellow commuters who drive to work. This inequity will force many commuters out of trains, buses, and vanpools, and back into their cars which will only lead to increases in congestion, fuel consumption, lost productivity and wasted time that could be spent on productive work or with their families.

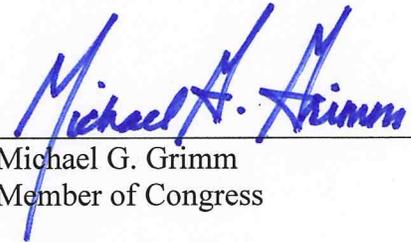
The transit benefit also provides small businesses and job creators with a financial incentive to help their employees increase their disposable incomes. This is a perfect example of how targeted and effective federal policy can provide employers with an opportunity to help their employees save money on their commute, while saving employers money that can be reinvested into their businesses to create new jobs. Congress should not continue to promote a tax policy that favors drivers over commuters and that penalizes businesses that do the right thing by offering their employees incentives to utilize a variety of transportation options.

We support the swift passage of legislation to permanently establish parity between the transit and parking benefits at a monthly level that will result in no additional costs to the federal government so that working Americans who choose public transportation and vanpools receive fair and equitable relief from the high cost of their commutes.

Sincerely,



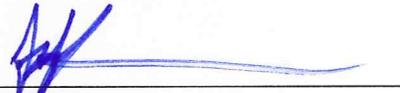
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



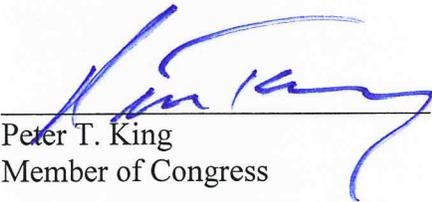
Michael G. Grimm
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



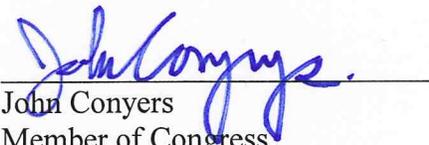
Robert Turner
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress



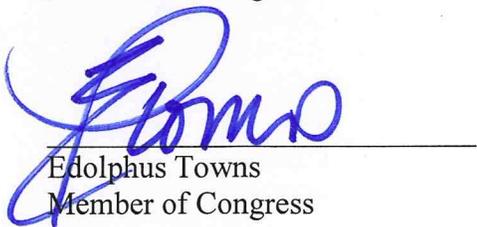
Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



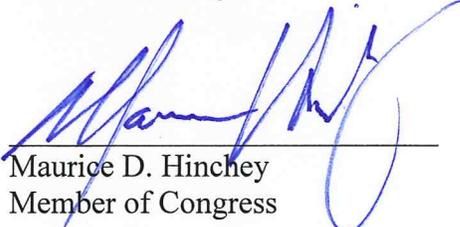
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



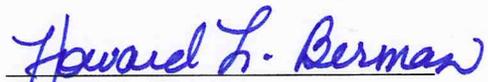
Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress



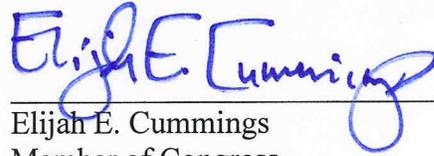
Roscoe G. Bartlett
Member of Congress



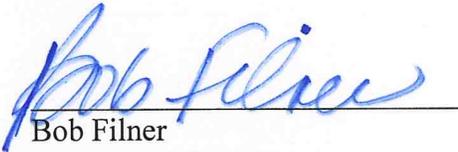
Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress



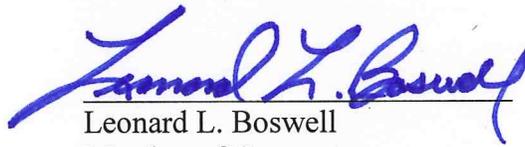
James P. Moran
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



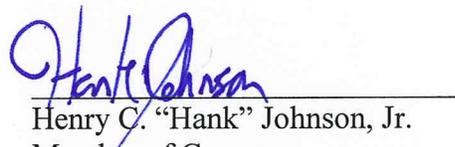
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



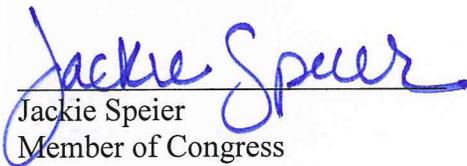
Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress



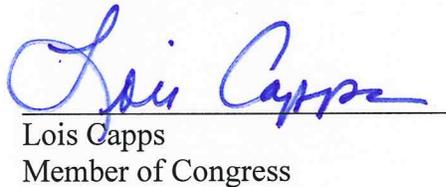
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



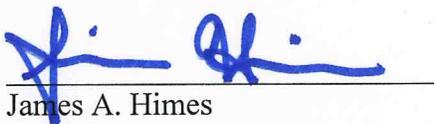
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



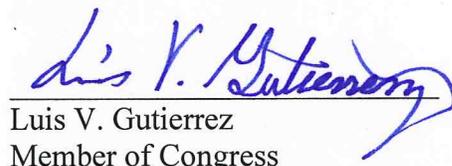
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
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James A. Himes
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Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



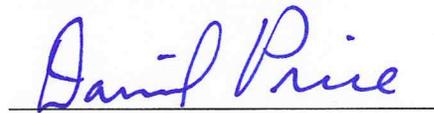
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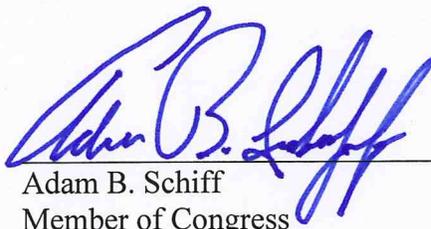
Richard E. Neal
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Edward J. Markey

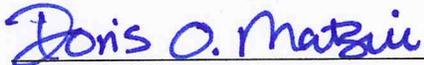
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Member of Congress



Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



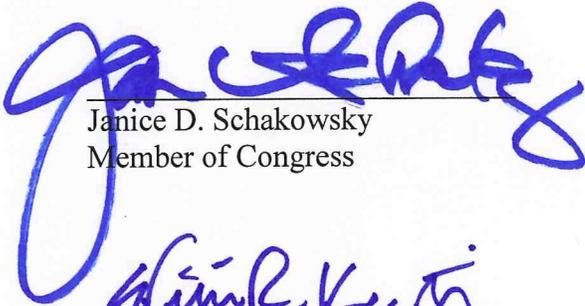
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



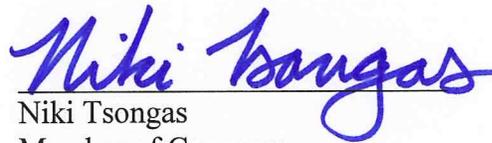
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



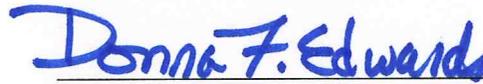
Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



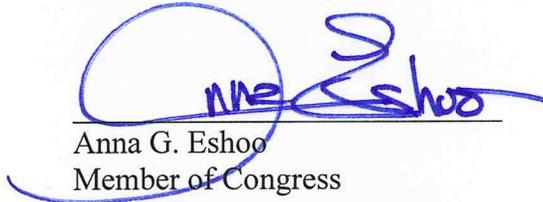
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



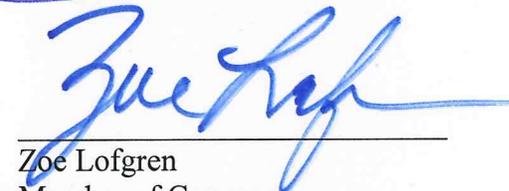
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



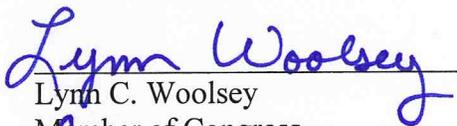
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Member of Congress



George Miller
Member of Congress



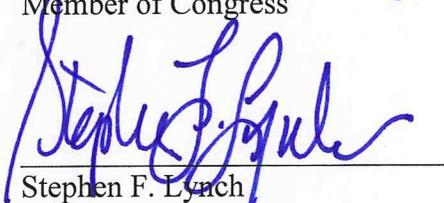
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



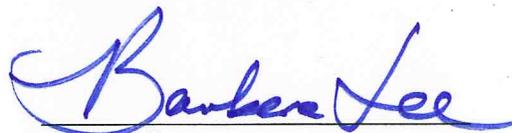
Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress



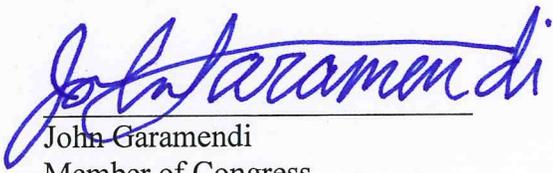
John W. Olver
Member of Congress

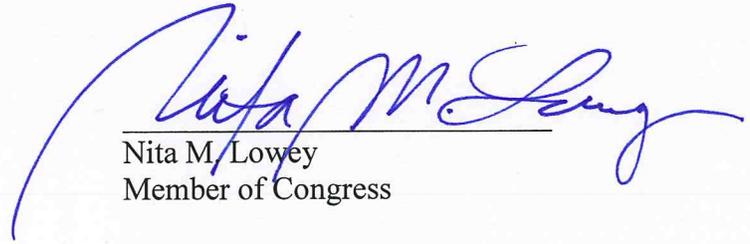


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

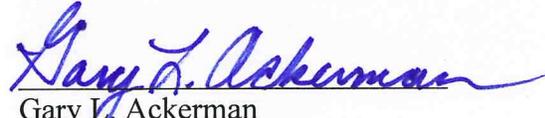


Barbara Lee
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John Garamendi
Member of Congress


Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

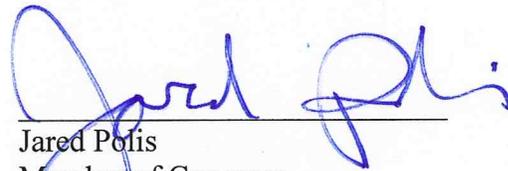

Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress

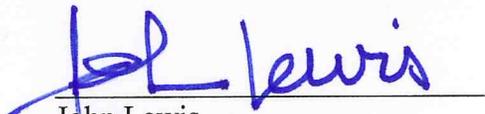

Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress

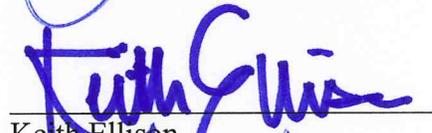

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

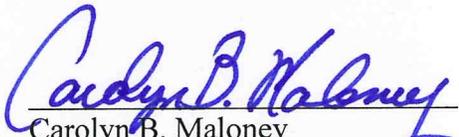

Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Jared Polis
Member of Congress

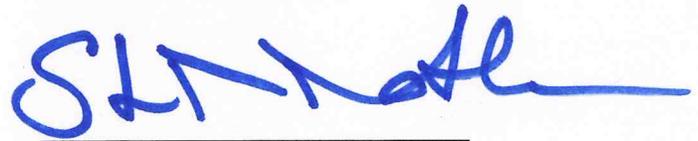

John Lewis
Member of Congress


Keith Ellison
Member of Congress


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress


Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress


Paul Tonko
Member of Congress


Steven R. Rothman
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