



April 25, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the members of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) and National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), we wish to express our strong support for a bill expected on the floor later today: S.496 – *“To repeal the rule issued by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration entitled “Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform”*. This legislation passed the Senate unanimously on March 8. Identical legislation from Representatives Daniel Lipinski and Jason Lewis, H.R. 1346, has the support of 26 bipartisan co-sponsors and passed the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee by voice vote on March 29.

AMPO and NARC support increased planning coordination at all levels, but this Final Rule has significant drawbacks that make its implementation impractical, and would hinder the regional planning process and delay project implementation. Our extensive joint comments to the federal docket explain in significant detail the problems with this rule and the negative consequences we believe would result. Ours was one of more than 600 comments to the docket that asked this rule be withdrawn or substantially modified. Neither occurred, so legislative action is required.

Repeal of this Final Rule is a key priority for our organizations and for many of our members. The legislation you will consider today would immediately restore certainty to the planning process for hundreds of planning organizations. Its bipartisan support is an indication that members from both parties recognize the damage this Final Rule could inflict on the transportation planning process and project implementation.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter, and reaffirm our request that you support passage of S.496.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie Wollack".

Leslie Wollack, Executive Director
National Association of Regional Councils

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DeLania Hardy".

DeLania Hardy, Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan Planning
Organizations

cc:

The Honorable Dan Lipinski, RHOB-2346
The Honorable Jason Lewis, CHOB-418