



**NARC**

*Building Regional Communities*

**National Association of Regional Councils**

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305

Washington, DC 20002

202.986.1032 (tel) 202.986.1038 (fax)

[www.NARC.org](http://www.NARC.org)

June 26, 2014

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
U.S. Senate  
221 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
Ranking Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
U.S. Senate  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Hatch:

On behalf of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), which represents regional planning organizations and their local elected officials nationwide, thank you for your leadership to find a short-term patch for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). As you are aware, local communities face the very real threat that transportation projects will be slowed or stopped if Congress does not immediately act on the HTF. Worse, this would happen in the middle of the summer construction season, making the impacts even more acute. Therefore, an immediate extension of transportation funding is essential.

NARC opposes and urges a “no” vote on Toomey amendment #1, which would eliminate the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). TAP is a direct source of funding for local projects and allows local elected officials a say in how federal transportation resources are spent. Local elected leaders are crucial partners in the nation’s transportation program, and the TAP program affirms that role. I urge you to [consider a recent letter](#) signed by hundreds of local officials expressing support for the TAP program. The TAP program should be enhanced and improved, not eliminated.

Once a short-term fix is complete, NARC strongly urges the Committee to focus on a long-term funding solution. NARC and its members support raising and indexing the federal fuel tax, which would provide increased funding; reassure local and state officials that the federal government intends to remain a strong partner; and provide time for Congress to consider alternatives to the gas tax.

We stand ready to work with you to help illustrate the benefits of transportation investments to local governments and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). We look forward to continuing a solutions-centric dialogue. Please contact Joanna Turner, NARC Executive Director, [joanna@narc.org](mailto:joanna@narc.org) or 202.986.1032 x216 for further information.

Sincerely,

Gary Moore  
President, National Association of Regional Councils  
Judge/Executive, Boone County, KY