

Aric Newhouse

*Senior Vice President
Policy and Government Relations*

February 15, 2012

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 7, the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012.

Investment in and updates to our nation's transportation infrastructure are absolutely essential to manufacturers' ability to compete and create jobs. In addition to the poor condition of many of America's roads, bridges and highways, congestion costs Americans \$115 billion annually, according to a recent study by the Texas Transportation Institute. Congestion vastly increases energy consumption and disrupts the supply chain, threatening manufacturing competitiveness and costing well-paying jobs.

A robust, long-term authorization transportation bill should include critical reforms and innovative financing strategies that encourage states to undertake multi-year and complex transportation projects and address congestion. Improving the permitting process would reduce the bureaucratic burden that delays infrastructure projects for years and unnecessarily increases construction costs.

The American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act would help ensure the core functions of our highways and transit systems are being met by federal, state and private partners and that funding is focused on immediate infrastructure needs and invested efficiently. Manufacturers strongly support the bill's transportation title.

At the same time, H.R. 7 would significantly expand domestic energy production and create jobs. As consumers of roughly one-third of our nation's energy, manufacturers believe increasing access to domestic sources of reliable and affordable energy, both onshore and offshore, is essential for generating economic growth and job creation.

Manufacturers embrace an "all of the above" approach to energy production. We support language in H.R. 7 requiring new offshore production in areas containing the most oil and natural gas resources, along with provisions seeking to prevent needless delays regarding leases in the Gulf of Mexico, Alaska and offshore Virginia. Moreover, prompt approval of the Keystone XL project, which is expected to generate 20,000 manufacturing and construction jobs and an additional 118,000 "spin-off" jobs during construction, would help boost our economy. Manufacturers strongly support the bill's energy title.

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The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on H.R. 7, including separate votes on the transportation and energy titles or on procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 112th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aric Newhouse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Aric Newhouse