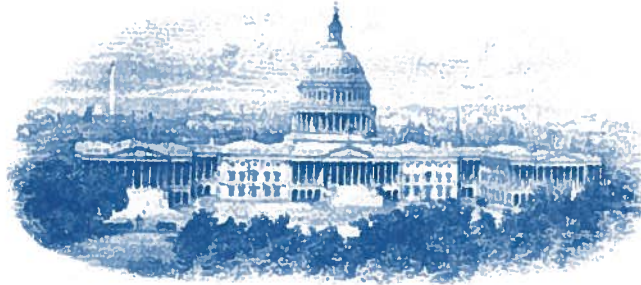


STEVE CHABOT
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
FIRST DISTRICT, OHIO

INCLUDES MOST OF HAMILTON COUNTY
AND ALL OF WARREN COUNTY

DEAN OF THE OHIO
REPUBLICAN DELEGATION



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

January 31, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The importance of modern transportation infrastructure to our nation's safety and economic well-being has never been more apparent. As I am sure you know, in my district and throughout Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky, the I-75 and I-71 corridors are the backbone of our economy. The Brent Spence Bridge, the lynchpin of this corridor, which carries both interstates over the Ohio River, has become a chokepoint, which hinders economic opportunity, and places the safety of my constituents at risk.

The Bridge has been studied for years, and has been declared "functionally obsolete" by the Department of Transportation. Motorists are five times more likely to have a wreck on the bridge, than on the interstate systems of Ohio, Kentucky or Indiana. More than 155,000 cars traverse the bridge daily, including over 30,000 large trucks, even though the capacity of the bridge is only half that.

The Department of the Treasury received a report by the Build America Investment Initiative in the fall of 2016, that listed 40 Transportation and Water Infrastructure Projects of Major Economic Significance, and included on that list was the Brent Spence Bridge Project. According to the report, the economic benefit of the project is projected to be \$18.6 billion. Approximately \$417 billion in freight crosses the bridge every year, equivalent to three percent of the Gross Domestic Product of our nation. This number is expected to more than double to \$830 billion by 2030. The report finds that the project will improve delivery times, reduce congestion costs from traffic, and improve national productivity and economic performance.

President Trump consistently mentioned this project as being one of national significance during his campaign, and has repeated this belief in the early days of his Presidency. I am committed to working with the President to find a solution to funding this project so that construction can

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begin as soon as possible. Every year that our efforts are delayed, the bridge's safety, project complexity, and economic impact gets worse.

I would like to meet with you to discuss the options available and what the interested parties can do to complete this project. Additionally, I hope that other Members of Congress and elected officials from Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky will be able to join us for the meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you, or your staff, have any questions, please contact Jonathan Lowe, Legislative Director, or Stacy Barton, Chief of Staff, in my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Chabot". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress