



January 27, 2009

A joint letter to the members of the New England and New York Congressional Delegations.



Dear Representatives:

As Congress develops a new economic stimulus package with a significant focus on public infrastructure, we are committed to assuring that federal dollars put people back to work quickly on state and municipal projects that prepare us for a sustainable and prosperous future. We urge you to work with your colleagues from across New England and New York to assure that federal stimulus package dollars are targeted to the most significant needs and that federal restrictions do not inadvertently slow down or prohibit expenditures of those funds.



In order for an economic stimulus package to effectively address infrastructure needs in New England and New York, we urge you to include the following priorities in the bill that is passed:



- No match should be required for federal dollars expended on local projects as local budgets are already strained to the limit.
- An allocation of dollars should be reserved for municipal projects specifically. The surest and fastest way to put the money into action is to require that a specific amount of federal aid be set aside for municipalities and regional groups of municipalities. Too often funds directed to state bureaucracies get bogged down. For quick stimulus, an appropriate share of federal help should bypass state agencies similar to the way the proposal allows the education portion of the funding to flow directly to school districts and public colleges.
- Permitting, design and engineering review of projects should be expedited and legislation should provide for a significantly streamlined re-permitting and redesign of projects that have been designed and permitted within the last five years but not constructed due to lack of funds.
- Reject calls for “non-supplant” language for funding designed to support local programs. Such a requirement might make sense when the federal government is seeking to expand local programs (for example, when the “COPS” program sought to put more police on the street), but is unworkable in an era when municipalities are being forced to slash budgets and lay off workers. Resisting the inclusion of “non-supplant” clauses means that some of these layoffs and program cuts will be avoided. It also means that states that may be in a better position to utilize the federal money on

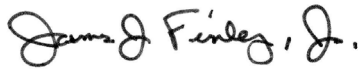


projects of their own choosing can then transfer state dollars for stimulus use to local governments to multiply the effects of the federal investment.

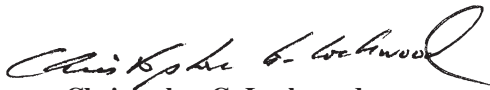
- States and municipalities should be authorized to use federal transportation stimulus dollars for maintenance and reconstruction projects.
- States should be authorized to sub-grant federal transportation stimulus dollars to municipalities for use on projects outside the federal aid system.
- Legislation should assure that a wide variety of projects are eligible for funding so as not to overwhelm one sector of the economy.

Thank you for your continuing efforts on behalf of local governments in New England and New York. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to implement the economic stimulus package upon its passage.

Sincerely,



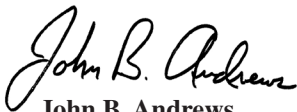
James J. Finley, Jr.
Connecticut Conference
of Municipalities



Christopher G. Lockwood
Maine Municipal
Association



Geoffrey Beckwith
Massachusetts
Municipal Association



John B. Andrews
New Hampshire
Municipal Association



Peter Baynes
NYS Conference
of Mayors



Dan Beardsley
R.I. League of
Cities and Towns



Steven E. Jeffrey
Vermont League of
Cities and Towns