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December 3, 2012

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shuster:

On behalf of the International Bridge, Tunnel, and Turnpike Association (IBTTA), representing organizations worldwide that own and operate toll facilities and the businesses that serve them, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as the next Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the 113th Congress.

As a past subcommittee chairman and committee member, I know you are acutely aware of the fiscal challenges facing the country's highway infrastructure system, and of the unique opportunity to improve safety, reduce congestion, and generate economic activity by improving the country's infrastructure deficit. As you would expect, our industry strongly endorses your recent observation that *"we've got to figure out a way to finance the system, and it needs to be done in a fiscally sound way."* Your recent statement about all options being on the table also encourages us when it comes to funding to address our country's transportation challenges.

More specifically, this is why we were very pleased to see you include tolling in the toolbox of options for financing our highways and keeping America moving. With 5,431 miles of toll roads across the country, 30.8 million electronic tolling transponders in use, and five billion trips per year on tolled roads and crossings, user financing is a practical, proven option that can help you navigate the challenging fiscal climate in which the next Congress will convene.

As the Reason Foundation highlighted in its recently released report, revenue collection through a fully developed all-electronic tolling system is no less cost-efficient than the gas tax.

Over the next two years, we hope you will look to IBTTA as a reliable source of data, experience, and expert counsel on the opportunities ahead for highways and highway users. Challenging times can also be tremendously interesting and present unique opportunities, and we look forward to working alongside you and the Committee to support our country's transportation needs.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick D. Jones
Executive Director and CEO