



LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

February 10, 2012

All TCU/IAM Amtrak and Metra Representatives Chicago, IL

On Monday, at 1:30 pm, Monday, February 13th, at Ogilvie Transportation Center, 500 West Madison Street, Chicago, IL 60661 Congressman Dan Lipinski, CTA President Forrest Claypool, Metra Executive Director Alex Clifford, RTA Executive Director Joseph Costello and other transportation, labor, and environmental leaders will discuss the numerous problems with the House Republican transportation reauthorization bill and call for passage of legislation that strengthens our ailing transportation system instead of weakening it. More than two years after the last long-term transportation bill expired, it's critical that we pass a robust, multi-year bill to cut down on congestion and delays that cost everyone time and money and hamper job creation in Illinois and across the country.

The House Republican bill, which is scheduled to be voted on this week, would slash funding for Illinois roads and highways, put \$450 million in funding for public transportation at risk by ending the long-standing use of motor-fuel taxes to fund mass transit, and make the CTA ineligible for an important program that last year alone provided it with \$36 million for new buses and other equipment. As the only Chicago-area Democrat on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Rep. Lipinski voted against the spending policy portion of the bill in committee last week after working hard to improve it. In a little more than a decade, delays for drivers in the Chicago region have increased by 40 percent, and now cost them \$1,568 each on average, more than anywhere else in the country.

They would like local union support/participation for this event and it is important that we turn out as many members as possible to fight these cuts. We need to start turning the volume up on the Republicans who want to cut Amtrak and transit funding.

Thanks for your help. If you have any questions please call the Legislative Department at 301-840-8704.

In solidarity,

Ron Kloos
National Vice President/
National Legislative Director