

From: LeMoine, Leigh  
To: Soura, Christian <ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>  
Baker, Josh <JoshBaker@gov.sc.gov>  
Date: 8/8/2013 5:33:13 PM  
Subject: FW: National Transportation Coalition

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FYI.

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From: Ed Schafer [mailto:eschafer@agenda-global.com]  
Sent: Thursday, August 08, 2013 5:32 PM  
To: LeMoine, Leigh  
Subject: NGA: National Transportation Coalition



August 8, 2013

Dear Governor Haley:

It was a pleasure to be back with many of our colleagues at the summer NGA this past weekend in Milwaukee. While attendance was light due to busy schedules at home, the meeting was highly productive.

I was at NGA to help launch a new effort to draw attention to the need for new federal transportation legislation and long-term funding.

I know every governor is acutely aware of the critical need for improving our surface transportation infrastructure and as a result, governors are taking important steps and making hard priority choices to ensure that state resources are in-place to address this need. We also know that the federal governments' contribution to our transportation system is in serious jeopardy -- the federal Highway Trust Fund expires and runs out of cash next fall. Federal legislation is desperately needed to ensure long-term federal funding and dedicated resources. It is a safe bet that general funds will not be there so we need Congress to take action now.

This was the theme of the NGA's Saturday session. Chairman Bill Shuster challenged governors to help push Congress to take action, and Secretary Foxx reiterated the call for a bi-partisan solution.

I have been integrally involved in this issue for a long time. When I chaired the NGA's Economic Development Committee in the late 90's, I led a gubernatorial coalition working in parallel with the NGA and other key stakeholders called the TRUST Coalition. Many of you may recall that we governors played a critical role in helping secure the Highway Trust Fund and was instrumental in pushing Congress to take action.

A similar effort is needed again. The NGA has significantly stepped up their efforts under the EDC's leadership, but of course, there are limits to the NGA's resources. More needs to be done if we are going to be effective in creating new public policy regarding transportation in Washington, DC. So we are launching what we call the National Transportation Coalition (NTC) -- to replicate our success with TRUST. We will work closely with the NGA and ASHTO, as well as user groups and transportation advocates, to help build a broader coalition pushing for federal action.

First, we will help build grassroots support for your transportation initiatives in your state, helping draw

attention to the importance of these programs to our economy and building support for gubernatorial leadership.

Second, we will call on Congress to take action. Our platform is simple:

1. Congress needs to take action *now*— well before the Highway Trust Fund expires in September, 2014.
2. We need a long-term bill (6+ years.) States need the stability of long-term planning, and one year Continuing Resolutions wont cut it.
3. We need dedicated funding. Everything needs to be on the table, and it will probably take a combination of resources, as we know General Funds are not likely to be available.

I am hoping to follow-up with each of you or your staff to find out what we can do to support your efforts at home and engage you when appropriate in Washington. We have an experienced team to help support this coalition and a strong existing relationship with Washington staff and the NGA. I am keenly aware of the demands on your time, and promise to leverage your efforts with an efficient operation.

I hope that you will consider joining me in this effort. I have included additional background and would be very happy to know how we can work together to highlight what you are already doing. Thanks for your consideration to join our effort!

Sincerely,  
Edward T Schafer  
Governor, ND 1992-2000  
US Secretary of Agriculture, 2008