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ENERGY POLICY, HEALTH CARE, AND
ENTITLEMENTS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

August 4, 2014

The Honorable Gregory G. Nadeau
Acting Administrator
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Nadeau:

Thank you again for the attention your agency, and especially the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has given to community concerns regarding the proposed CSX Virginia Avenue Tunnel Project. The residents affected by the project have indicated they are grateful for the planned second public meeting and additional time to review the Final Environmental Impact Study (EIS). However, recent developments necessitate a further extension of the Final EIS review and comment period.

The District of Columbia Council Committee of the Whole and Committee on Transportation and Environment have scheduled an oversight hearing on the Virginia Avenue Tunnel project for August 26, 2014. In addition, Council Chairman Phil Mendelson and Council Member Mary Cheh have sent a letter to District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) raising concerns and seeking explanations regarding agreements made between CSX and DDOT prior to the issuance of the Draft EIS. In this letter, the Council Members request that DDOT delay the issuance of any permits until September 15, 2014. The Council Members go on to request that DDOT delay its part in the issuance of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the project until this date, if necessary. However, the issuance of the ROD is a purely federal action, and only FHWA will sign and issue the ROD.

Because the city, where this work is to take place, has serious concerns, I ask that the FHWA delay the issuance of the ROD until September 15, 2014, to accommodate any investigation and oversight of DDOT by the D.C. Council. I ask that this request be given full and fair consideration consistent with applicable law, rules, and regulations.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Holmes Norton

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