

September 8, 2008

Dear Senator,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to provide relief for Americans struggling with record high gas prices by supporting the **Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act (S.3380)**, sponsored by Senator Hillary Clinton. This legislation, which passed the House with strong bipartisan support in June, would help meet the growing demand for affordable, convenient public transportation in cities across America by allowing local transit agencies to expand and improve service.

Our nation's dependence on oil has become increasingly painful, and many people are seeking alternatives to the pump. In the first quarter of 2008, public transit ridership rose by 85 million trips compared to the same quarter in 2007. At the same time, Americans drove almost 100 million fewer miles in the first quarter of 2008 compared to 2007.

People are turning to public transit because it reduces their gasoline consumption and costs. A typical transit rider consumes about half as much gasoline on average as a person with no access to transit. Nationwide, public transportation saves our country over four billion gallons of fuel each year and billions of dollars in gasoline costs.

We can reduce our dependence on oil with solutions that make it easier for Americans to drive less. Two-thirds of oil in the United States goes to transportation, with the largest share consumed by cars and trucks. Federal transportation funding dramatically favors new road projects and lane expansion, while transit agencies are struggling to keep up with record high ridership. By supporting and expanding modern bus service, light rail, commuter rail and transit-oriented development, we can help working families pay less at the pump and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

The undersigned organizations appreciate your consideration of this issue and urge you to support the **Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act (S. 3380)** to allow transit agencies to expand and improve service and to make public transportation accessible and affordable for more Americans.

For more information, please contact US PIRG's John Krieger – (202) 546-9707.

Sincerely,

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