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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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February 10, 2011

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In his State of the Union address last month, President Obama proposed a new initiative to create jobs and strengthen the economy by investing in America's infrastructure. On January 26, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO issued a rare joint statement applauding the President's proposal. They stated:

Whether it is building roads, bridges, high-speed broadband, energy systems and schools, these projects not only create jobs and demand for businesses, they are an investment in building the modern infrastructure our country needs to compete in a global economy.<sup>1</sup>

For these reasons, I am writing to request that our Committee's next hearing focus on proposals to promote economic growth by investing in our nation's infrastructure. For this hearing, I propose that we invite three witnesses:

- Thomas J. Donohoe  
President and CEO  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Richard Trumka  
President  
AFL-CIO
- The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation

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<sup>1</sup> *Donohue and Trumka Issue Joint Statement on SOTU*, U.S. Chamber of Commerce (Jan. 26, 2011) (online at [www.uschamber.com/press/releases/2011/january/donohue-and-trumka-issue-joint-statement-sotu](http://www.uschamber.com/press/releases/2011/january/donohue-and-trumka-issue-joint-statement-sotu)).

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa

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In my opinion, these are exactly the kinds of bipartisan, constructive initiatives our Committee and Congress should support. Additionally, the Committee will be able to examine these issues within the context of the President's 2012 budget, due to be released Monday, February 14, 2011. This Committee is uniquely positioned to approach these challenges in a manner that will cultivate real solutions, and I look forward to doing so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "C" at the end.

Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member