

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 10, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David E. Price
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As the conference committee considers the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD) Appropriations Title, we urge the inclusion of a two-state future interstate designation along the Ports-to-Plains corridor, as included in the Senate bill, in the final T-HUD legislation. This is an issue of great importance and value to the constituents of our respective districts.

The Texas and New Mexico portion of the future designation garnered strong bipartisan support in the House and was ultimately included in H.R. 3684, the INVEST in America Act, that passed the House on July 1st. As the Senate moved to consider H.R. 3684, the bipartisan amendment, sponsored by all four Senators from Texas and New Mexico, was cleared by the committees of jurisdiction and by Senate leadership, but ultimately it was not considered for a floor vote. Most recently, the two-state designation was included in the base Senate T-HUD Appropriations text. If implemented, this designation will stretch across two states where there are currently no major north-south interstate highways.

To provide prosperity to every part of the country, it is critical to recognize the essential role that small towns and rural communities play in feeding, fueling, and clothing America's cities and urban areas. Access and upgrades to adequate rural infrastructure not only promote the wellbeing and quality of life for people living in rural communities, but also ensures the safe and efficient transportation of food, fuel, and fiber throughout the country.

An initial report on the expansion of the I-27 corridor found it to be critical in linking the energy and agricultural sectors to state, national and international trade, and it would result in \$690 million per year in travel cost savings outside the corridor. The two-state highway designation included in the Senate language would not only improve the resilience of our supply chain, but also spur economic growth for underserved communities, both of which are priorities in President Biden's infrastructure plan.

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We urge the inclusion of the two-state future interstate designation, as included in the Senate bill, in the final T-HUD conference bill. We look forward to working with you on this critical legislation. Please reach out to our offices if we can be of any help.

Sincerely,



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress