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## Senate of Pennsylvania

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December 15, 2009

The Honorable Glenn Thompson  
Congressman, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
124 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

I am writing to respectfully request legislation regarding a transportation matter that currently exists within the Commonwealth. As an advocate for rural Pennsylvania, I am certain you will recognize the nature of the problem and seek to find a remedy.

As you may or may not know, currently the federal government allows states to move federal funds allocated for highways to bail out mass transit. These funds were intended for road and bridge projects in each of the respective states, however our Governor has consistently used these flex dollars to help fund mass transit. In fact, in 2005 and 2006 \$414 million was moved from fixing our highways to helping mass transit in our cities; consequently forcing the General Assembly to consider the tolling of Interstate 80.

This practice has shortchanged highway and bridge improvements for far too long and is authorized under the transportation funding authority provided by Congress. With the debate ongoing on how to adequately fund our deteriorating roads and bridges...might I add the worst in the country...it would seem to me that it is necessary to put an end to this irresponsible use of highway dollars.

I would encourage your thoughtful review of this issue and ask that you include in the next transportation bill restrictions on the Governors' use of those funds. Under no circumstances should these dollars be headed to Philadelphia and mass transit when in this region we have many road and bridge projects in dire need of funding.

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This issue deserves your serious time and attention, as we face a transportation funding crisis here in the Commonwealth. Thank you for your time and attention and I do look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe".

Joe Scarnati  
State Senator-25<sup>th</sup> District

JBS/tmn

cc: Members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation