

June 12, 2025

Dear Senators:

As Congress continues work on the budget reconciliation process, the undersigned organizations from across agriculture write to highlight the importance of investments in roads and bridges to America's agriculture industry. These infrastructure improvements significantly enhance rural communities and strengthen our industry supply chains, ensuring efficient delivery of crop inputs for successful harvests and efficient connections between domestic and global market participants.

A sufficiently and predictably funded Highway Trust Fund (HTF) makes this all possible. However, the HTF is facing challenges that could lead to insolvency within a few years. Further, although Congress established the HTF as a "user-pays" system, not all highway users are contributing equitably. Electric vehicles do not contribute to the HTF at all because they are not subject to the federal fuel tax, even as nearly 40 states have in place a mechanism to collect fees at the state level. Hybrid vehicles, while subject to the fuel tax on the gasoline they consume, contribute less than traditional internal combustion vehicles. Additionally, electric and hybrid vehicles have heavy batteries that cause more road wear compared to conventional vehicles.

Fairness is a core value on the farm and across rural America. This principle extends to ensuring that all vehicle users, regardless of their fuel type or technology, contribute equitably to the upkeep and improvement of our roads and bridges. As you are aware, the House included an equitable solution and new revenues for the HTF in its budget reconciliation package. We urge the Senate to follow the House, ensure that these vehicles contribute an amount comparable to what gasoline and diesel vehicles pay to the HTF, and dedicate these revenues to the HTF.

We appreciate Congress' ongoing support of American agriculture and the transportation network that enables a successful rural economy.

Sincerely,

Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference

Agricultural Retailers Association

Agriculture Transportation Coalition

Amcot

American Cotton Shippers Association

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Feed Industry Association

American Sheep Industry Association

American Soybean Association

Corn Refiners Association

Fresh Produce Association of the Americas

Hardwood Federation

International Fresh Produce Association

National Aquaculture Association

National Association of Wheat Growers

National Corn Growers Association

National Cotton Council

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Grain and Feed Association

National Grange

National Potato Council

North American Millers' Association

North American Renderers Association

Specialty Soya & Grains Alliance

The Fertilizer Institute

USA Rice

U.S. Meat Export Federation