



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Sam Graves
Chair

Jack Ruddy, Staff Director

Rick Larsen
Ranking Member

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy:

We are deeply concerned about recent and planned actions by the Administration to slash the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) workforce and the resulting impacts on the safety of the traveling public, the welfare of communities, and the effective stewardship of our nation's infrastructure.

The indiscriminate firing of probationary employees on February 14 created uncertainty and strain on DOT employees. These terminations were carried out without any justification or notification to Congress regarding the process, the details or the impacts. The Committee has not received the documentation requested on February 19 on the number of employees terminated, the specific offices affected by the terminations, or the job categories affected.

On March 4, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) revised its directive for agencies to terminate probationary employees in response to a court order finding that these indiscriminate firings were illegal. The revised directive comes on the heels of a broader OPM order issued on February 26 for agencies to submit plans by March 13 for deeper cuts to agency personnel through mass layoffs.

To date, this Administration has shown a callous disregard for the public servants that make up our federal workforce, which will have long-lasting consequences. For example, the entire senior career leadership team at one of your safety agencies announced retirements last month representing more than 150 years of experience leaving the agency. Your decisions in the coming weeks in response to these directives stand to drastically reshape the Department and affect DOT's ability to usher in the safe, world-class transportation and infrastructure the Administration supports. We urge you to hire back probationary employees and rethink your approach to workforce reductions.

At DOT, federal workers oversee the safety of the nation's roads, bridges, transit systems, passenger and freight railroads, pipelines, hazardous materials, and maritime transportation. These workers directly control the safety of the national airspace. These workers directly manage the disbursement and oversight of hundreds of billions of federal dollars provided by Congress to build infrastructure projects,

improve the mobility of people and goods, and create jobs. These workers ensure that Congressional mandates including Buy America requirements and operational standards on infrastructure projects are met. These workers also process and evaluate legally required environmental reviews and their termination only serves to slow down project delivery, leading to cost increases.

Democrats support these functions continuing effectively, transparently, and skillfully by employees whose work is valued and who are respected, not routinely denigrated, by the nation's highest office. We urge you to change course.

Communities across the country want roads and bridges in good condition, more, better, and safer passenger and freight rail service, safe streets and safe skies, and reliable and affordable mobility options. States, local governments, Tribes, and transportation providers need certainty and steady rules of the game to make these goals a reality. Congress provided funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, along with administrative funding for U.S. DOT to hire federal workers, to deliver these outcomes.

Congress has a responsibility to answer our constituents and transportation stakeholders in our districts who reach out regularly with questions about DOT's work to deliver these outcomes. To fulfill our oversight responsibilities, we reiterate our request for full information related to:

- the impacts of all decisions made to date related to reductions in force, including the number of employees fired or who accepted deferred resignations or retirements in response to the Administration's actions;
- the number of probationary employees who were let go and who you plan to rehire, if any; and
- all planned reductions in force across DOT's modal agencies and the Office of the Secretary to meet OPM's February 26 directive.

The Administration's personnel actions will have consequences beyond the immediate economic impact of people losing their jobs. We are not willing to jeopardize the stability and safety of our transportation system or the federal-state-local partnership model of building infrastructure. We are not willing to risk devolving our systems into chaos. Instead, we hope you will work with us to deliver cleaner, safer, more efficient transportation.

Sincerely,


Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

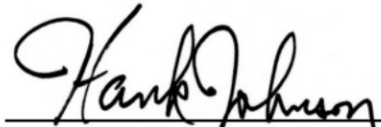

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



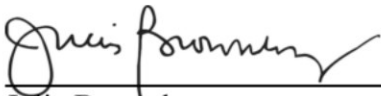
André Carson
Member of Congress



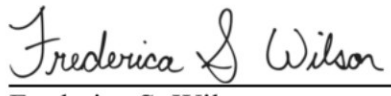
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



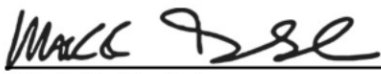
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



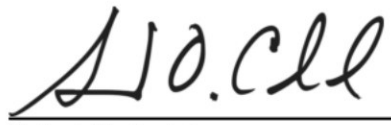
Julia Brownley
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Frederica S. Wilson
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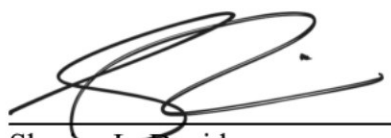
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



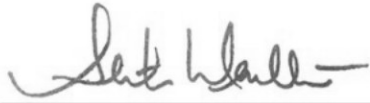
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



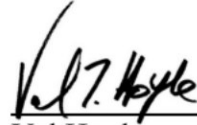
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



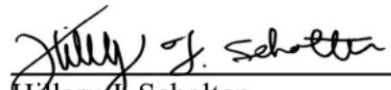
Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



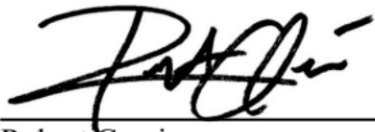
Hillary C. Scholten
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



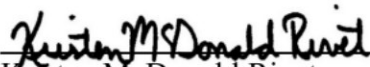
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



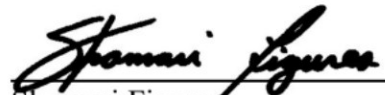
Kristen McDonald Rivet
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Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Laura A. Gillen
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Shomari Figures
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