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September 10, 2009

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

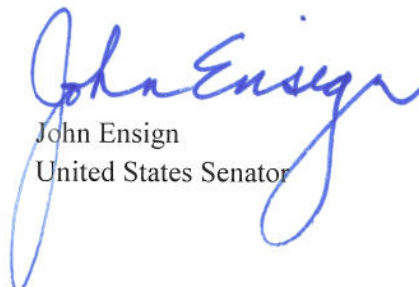
I am writing to you today in support of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) and their application to the *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Discretionary Grant Program* (TIGER). If awarded, this grant would allocate the funds needed for a rapid transit line in southern Nevada.

Las Vegas has been home to one of the most vibrant tourism industries in the nation. Unfortunately, Nevada has also been one of the states hardest hit by the current recession. The tourism industry represents approximately 370,000 jobs in southern Nevada. This is roughly 40% of the total jobs in the region. The ability to move the community's 2 million residents and nearly 40 million visitors is critical to the economic health of the region and the state.

This project will provide an important rapid transit link between residential communities and key employment areas near and within the Resort Corridor. It will improve the convenience, efficiency, and reliability of the commuter transit system; and represents an innovative link between transit planning and land use development policies.

I thank you in advance for your consideration and review of this grant application.

Sincerely,



John Ensign
United States Senator