



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

April 3, 2009

The Honorable James Oberstar
Chairman
U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar:

I want to thank you for meeting with Michigan Department of Transportation Director Kirk Steudle and me, along with Congressman Mark Schauer, on March 24, 2009, to discuss the Detroit to Chicago high speed rail corridor. I appreciate your taking time from your busy schedule to have a conversation with us.

I appreciate your desire to ensure an appropriate level of transparency and accountability in the expenditure of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. I want to assure you that Michigan's transportation and clean water agencies are working closely with the U.S. DOT, EPA, and our private sector partners to ensure that the reporting requirements specifically included in ARRA will be met in a timely manner.

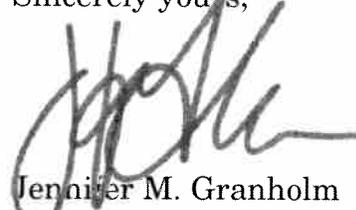
In addition, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has identified Michigan as one of 16 states that will be under additional scrutiny for overall use of ARRA funding. Officials from the GAO conducted the first of many bimonthly reviews with staff from a wide variety of Michigan agencies in March. Their first report is expected in late April, and is intended to help ensure that ARRA is achieving its purpose of job creation, economic stimulus, and financial stabilization.

Attached for your information is the information you requested on the expenditure of ARRA transportation and clean water funds in Michigan. I regret that I do not yet have a larger number of projects on which to report. Federal and Michigan state law require certain steps, beyond those required by ARRA, be undertaken before projects can be obligated, contracts awarded, and commencing construction. Those legally-required processes are underway, but they have not been completed for most of our ARRA projects.

The Honorable James Oberstar
4-3-2009

Thank you again for your work in this area and your willingness to work with your partners at the state level.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Granholm", written over a faint, illegible background.

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor