

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 18, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear President Trump:

We write to applaud the leadership and support you have shown for innovation in America. As you develop the fiscal year 2019 budget, we urge you to include \$20 million for the Hyperloop Transportation Initiative — a grant program to accelerate the innovation, business growth and job creation that will be enabled by this revolutionary transportation system.

We are Representatives of states that are central to the nation's existing transportation network, which includes thousands of trucking and railroad miles, airports and seaports. This transportation network supports the interstate commerce system and global competitiveness, as well as tourism and commuter travel.

America's transportation system is one of the world's most extensive. It includes a four million mile network of public roads and transit systems operating approximately 226,400 directional route miles, of which 216,620 are non-rail and 9,800 are rail route miles. According to the American Public Works Association (APWA), 75 percent of all highway miles are in rural areas, and the Midwest states rank among the highest in interstate mileage: Illinois is 3rd, Pennsylvania is 4th, and Ohio is 5th. Additionally, about 55 percent of the U.S. population is within one day's drive of the Midwest corridor. Moreover, Americans spent 1.8 trillion minutes commuting in 2014, or 29.6 billion hours, 1.2 billion days, or a collective 3.4 million years. With such high infrastructure demands, the Hyperloop Transportation Initiative is particularly appealing for our states and the entire country.

We write to respectfully request that you take a closer look at Hyperloop, an innovation that could generate jobs, improve our infrastructure, reduce traffic and energy consumption, save money, and vastly improve daily commuting. At least six other countries have started feasibility studies and are beginning to implement this innovation, and America, the world's pioneering superpower in innovation and entrepreneurship, is in danger of falling behind.

The Hyperloop Transportation Initiative will support development that integrates existing technologies to transport people and cargo across states and ultimately the entire country. Using a capsule that is placed inside a tube, in which a vacuum extracts the air to create a low-pressure environment, magnetic levitation and electromagnetic motors propel the capsule to its destination. The Hyperloop can enable travel up to 760 mph, which means one could work in Cleveland and live in Chicago, taking a Hyperloop from one city to the next for about \$20 and arriving within 27 minutes.

The other benefits to the Hyperloop innovation are numerous.

- It is cheaper to operate and requires less maintenance than railway systems.
- It is intrinsically safer by design because of its fully controlled environment and automation. In addition, if there is an equipment or electric failure, it glides to a comfortable stop.
- It is designed to be net-energy positive as it can produce 30 percent more energy than it consumes due to the solar panel powered system.
- It is healthier because it has no emissions and reduces commute times, which public health research has shown are linked with increased rates of obesity, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, back and neck pain, divorce, depression and death.
- It is quiet for passengers and neighbors.

- It operates point-to-point with fast and frequent departures, offering nearly on-demand service delivering all passengers in the capsule to the same stop.

We request your leadership in establishing the Hyperloop Transportation Initiative through the Department of Transportation. Specifically, this Initiative would work to help shape regulation and legislation; fund competitive grants for feasibility studies in centralized locations where there is the highest transportation demand; support research and development for universities and companies to develop various parts of the Hyperloop system; and connect stakeholders to ensure a smooth implementation of the Hyperloop alongside existing transportation systems.

Thank you for your consideration. As Representatives from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin we know how valuable the Hyperloop Transportation Initiative can be for this country. This unprecedented innovation can become a reality under your Administration.

Sincerely,



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



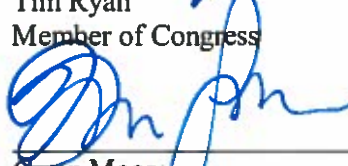
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



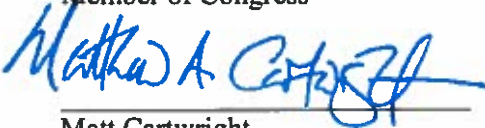
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



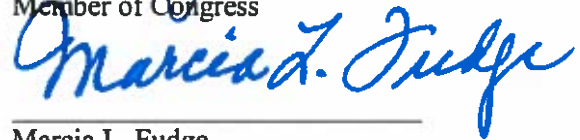
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



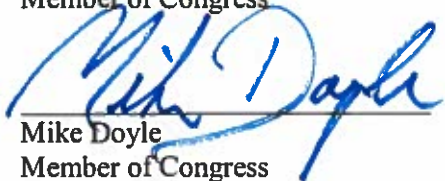
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

CC: Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney
Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao
Jared Kushner, Special Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy