

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 21, 2015

Jim Yong Kim
President
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433

Dear Dr. Kim:

As you may know, road crashes have become a significant and troubling problem worldwide. More than 1.3 million people are killed in road crashes each year, 90 percent of them in developing countries. A large percentage of the victims are children. The rate of road crashes has been rising quickly, and the World Health Organization expects road traffic injuries to overtake HIV/AIDS as a leading cause of death. We believe that the World Bank is uniquely positioned to improve road safety around the world.

We are concerned about road safety abroad not only because of its global impact, but also because it helps protect our constituents when they travel. Researchers at Johns Hopkins University found that road crashes are the most prevalent cause of non-natural death of American travelers abroad, surpassing terrorism and other forms of crime.

In addition to preventing road-related fatalities, building safe roads makes economic sense. As you pointed out in your foreword to the World Bank's report "Transport for Health," road crashes cost approximately one to five percent of Gross Domestic Product in developing countries. In light of this, the Bank's website rightly notes that expenditure on road safety should be seen as an investment and not as a cost.

Because the World Bank plays a preeminent role in financing road construction in developing countries, you are in a position to have tremendous influence in the efforts to improve road safety. We know that the World Bank has taken some important steps to address these issues, including the establishment of the Global Road Safety Facility. However, the World Bank's funding for the Facility has amounted to only a very small percentage (less than one one-thousandth) of what the Bank spends on roads.

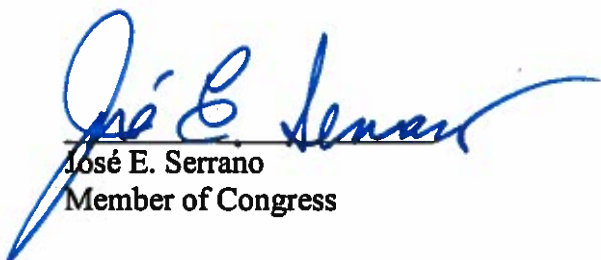
We believe that more needs to be done to address the safety of all roads built under World Bank projects. Too often, roads in developing countries are built without the proper safeguards to prevent crashes, and with little regard for the safety of all road users, including vulnerable pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists. The design requirements for safe roads are well understood, and development agencies' construction projects should more closely follow these guidelines.

One way that the World Bank has tried to improve safety is to work with the International Road Assessment Program (iRAP), which rates roads from one to five stars in terms of road safety for each category of road users (vehicle occupants, pedestrians, etc.). iRAP has found that an increase of one star cuts crash deaths by roughly half, and that road safety investments yield impressive economic returns.

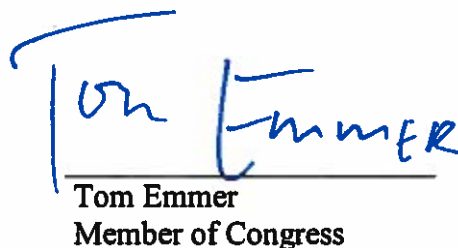
While the World Bank has financed some road construction where it requires a three-star minimum rating, it has not made this a requirement for all the construction it funds. In order to reduce accidents and deaths, we urge you to require a three-star minimum rating for each category of road users on all World Bank-funded roads.

By requiring a three-star minimum rating, you have the opportunity to make a major and lasting contribution that will save people's lives, significantly reduce traffic-related injuries, and enhance economic growth. Thank you for your consideration of this issue, and we look forward to working with you to improve road safety.

Sincerely,



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



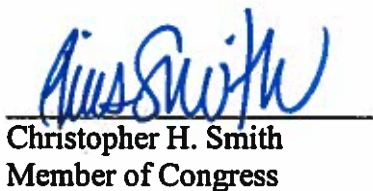
Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
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Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



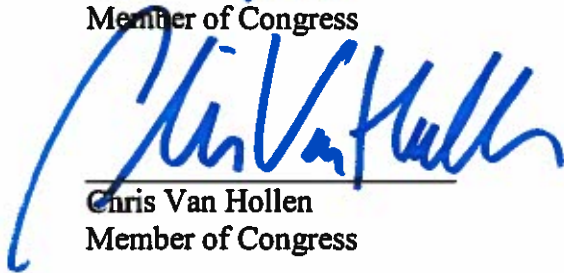
Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



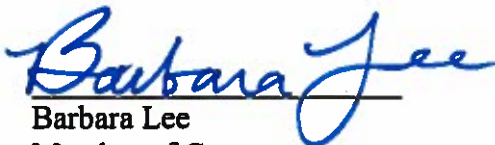
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



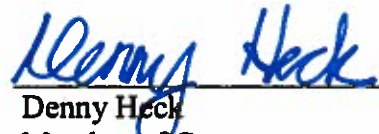
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



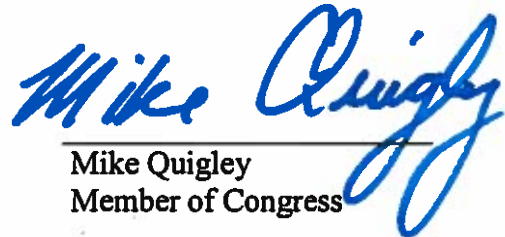
Wm. Lacy Clay
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Paul Tonko
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Randy K. Weber, Sr.
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Mike Quigley
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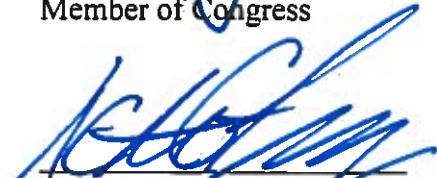
Scott DesJarlais
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Scott H. Peters
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress


Steve Cohen
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Lou Barletta
Member of Congress


Chris Stewart
Member of Congress


Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Farr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "S" at the beginning.

Sam Farr
Member of Congress