

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 30, 2015

Mr. Jim Yong Kim
President
The World Bank
1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20433

Dear Mr. Kim,

We greatly appreciate your commitment to providing safe, clean, and affordable transportation. The World Bank is an important institution that provided nearly 13.5 percent of all road sector lending in Fiscal Year 2014 and has been a leader in calls for action to address road safety. The key issue we raise today is improving the safety of the roads built under World Bank projects.

As you know, over 1.3 million people, 90 percent of them in developing countries, are killed in road crashes each year, and a large proportion of the victims are children. The rate of road crashes has been rising fast, and road traffic injuries are forecast by the World Health Organization to overtake HIV-AIDS as a cause of death.

Because the World Bank plays a preeminent role in financing road construction in developing countries, you are in a position to make a major difference in road safety. We are grateful that the World Bank has taken important steps to address road safety, including the establishment of the Global Road Safety Facility and the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*.

We are concerned about road safety abroad not only because of its global impact, but also to help protect our constituents when they travel. Researchers at Johns Hopkins University found that road crashes are the largest cause of non-natural death of American travelers abroad, surpassing terrorism and other forms of crime. Too often roads in developing countries are built without proper safeguards to prevent road crashes and with little regard for the safety of all road users, including vulnerable pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists.

As well as preventing deaths and disability, 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 1 to 5 percent of Gross Domestic Product in developing countries. In light of this fact, the Bank's website rightly notes that expenditure on road safety should be seen as an investment and not as a cost.

The International Road Assessment Program (iRAP) rates roads from 1 to 5 stars in terms of the road's 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.

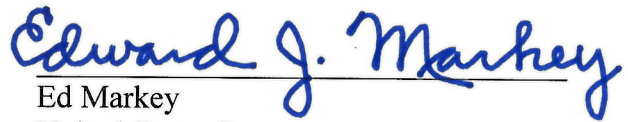
The World Bank has financed some road construction where it requires a three-star minimum rating, but the Bank has not made this a requirement for all the road construction it funds. As the World Bank has stated its commitment to the global road safety agenda, we urge you to require a three-star minimum rating for each category of road users on all World Bank funded roads.

By requiring a three-star minimum standard, you have the opportunity to make a major and lasting contribution that will save people's lives, greatly reduce disability and injuries, and enhance economic growth.

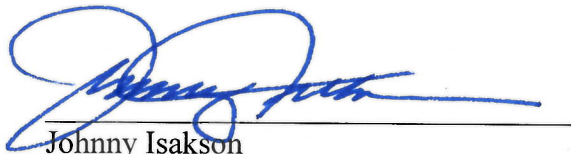
Sincerely,



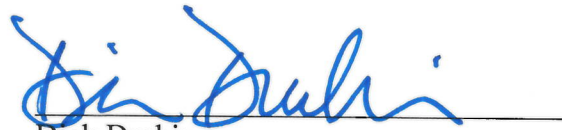
David Perdue
United States Senator



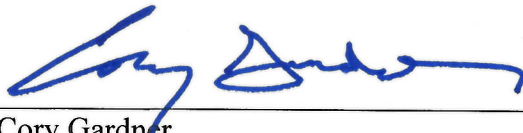
Ed Markey
United States Senator



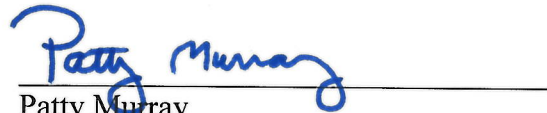
Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



Dick Durbin
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Barbara Mikulski
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator