

**NEWS from Congressman John W. Olver (MA-1)  
Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development**

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**Opening Statement of Chairman John W. Olver**  
**Strengthening Intermodal Connections and Improving**  
**Freight Mobility – Part II**  
**10:00 am, March 17, 2010**

The ability to move passengers and freight are core functions of our transportation infrastructure. Our ability to ensure that these functions are accomplished efficiently with minimal losses due to congestion directly impacts the ability of domestic manufacturers to compete in the global marketplace and the price of goods when they reach consumers.

Yesterday we heard from a panel of practitioners who represent different modes involved in the movement of freight. Today we will hear testimony from Roy Kienitz, the Under Secretary for Policy at the U.S. Department of Transportation. In addition, Mr. Kienitz is accompanied by the Administrators of the four federal agencies that are primarily responsible for overseeing the safety and efficiency of our freight transportation network. We look

forward to delving deeper into the fiscal year 2011 budget requests for each of your respective agencies. Specifically I'd like to welcome:

- Victor Mendez, Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration;
- Anne Ferro, Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration;
- Joseph Szabo, Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration; and
- David Matsuda, Acting Administrator of the Maritime Administration;

With the exception of Motor Carriers, all of your budget requests are essentially frozen at FY 2010 levels in the absence of a surface transportation reauthorization. I will be interested to hear how you intend to support needed improvements in our national infrastructure with the requested resources.

In addition, many of our outside witnesses spoke in support of the TIGER grant program established within the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and acknowledged the need for a grant program that addresses the complex interconnections between modes and supports improvements in freight infrastructure. I will look forward to discussing how inter-agency cooperation occurred on the TIGER grants and how the Department intends to continue this cooperation and support intermodal investments.