

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

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## **Opening Statement as Prepared by Chairman John W. Olver Strengthening Intermodal Connections and Improving Freight Mobility**

At its core, the global economy determines winners and losers based on the cost at which a product can be produced and brought to market.

Within the global marketplace, the United States cannot compete with labor costs in developing countries. As a result, we must ensure that every other step of the process is more efficient, including the ability of domestic manufacturers to transport finished goods to the market place.

To that point, investments in our national infrastructure are not only about creating immediate construction jobs, but also long-term jobs that are established when manufacturers can access and gain advantage from an efficient, interconnected transportation network.

In order to meet this challenge, the Federal government plays a central role in developing and maintaining an intermodal system that meets our national needs. Last month, the Department of Transportation announced awards for the TIGER grant program established within the

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This is a significant step for our federal transportation program as it reflects a growing understanding that the interconnections between modes are just as important as mobility within a mode.

Helping us explore these complex networks, we have before us today a distinguished panel of experts and practitioners who represent different modes engaged in the movement of commerce.

- Beverly Swaim-Staley is Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation;
- John Wolfe is the Executive Director for the Port of Tacoma;
- Richard Timmons is president of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association;
- Wayne Johnson is the Director of Logistics for the American Gypsum Company; and
- Timothy Lynch is Senior Vice President for the American Trucking Association.

Thank you all for being here and I look forward to hearing each of your viewpoints regarding our national infrastructure. In particular, I'm interested to hear your opinions on how our current system operates and where you believe there are opportunities for improved mobility.

Furthermore, recognizing that the U.S. population is estimated to grow to close to 400 million people by 2050, I hope you'll discuss how we can plan ahead to minimize conflict between the movement of freight and passengers and what role new technologies may play in alleviating that tension.

Your testimony will also set the tone and provide practical insight for tomorrow's hearing where we will hear from the Federal modal agencies that primarily impact freight mobility. Specifically, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration, the Maritime Administration, and the Federal Railroad Administration will provide testimony on their respective Fiscal Year 2011 Budget requests.