

FAILURE TO PASS WOULD RESULT IN THE LOSS OF NEARLY 60,000 TEXAS JOBS

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS – Today, San Antonio Congressman Charlie Gonzalez Congressman urged Republicans to negotiate in good faith to prevent the loss of nearly 60,000 construction jobs in Texas and one million jobs across the country by passing a clean extension of the surface transportation jobs bill. Additionally if Congress fails to compromise and work on passing the transportation bill, 5,400 highway projects and 333 transit projects in Texas would be jeopardized. Congressman Charlie Gonzalez issued the following statement:

“Last month, America witnessed its credit downgraded for the first time in its history because a small group of uncompromising Republicans held the economy hostage for nothing more than political grandstanding and blind devotion to political ideology. Next month, if this same group fails to compromise and pass the transportation jobs bill, then 60,000 workers in Texas will lose their jobs. Allowing the transportation jobs bill to expire is unacceptable. America’s roads and bridges are in dire need of repair, and it is inexcusable for jobs and critical reconstruction to be delayed because of extremist ideology. These funds are necessary to help rebuild America and strengthen our economy.

“In the coming days and weeks, several ideas will be introduced by both parties on how to get our economy back on track. During these debates, we must analyze each proposition’s effect on job creation and only move forward on measures that will create and bolster jobs. However, we must not advocate for measures that will cut jobs and hurt America’s working families, and by allowing the transportation jobs bill to expire one million American workers will lose their jobs and the safety and status of our Nation’s roads and bridges would be in jeopardy. This is no time for political games. We need to avoid the hostage taking mentality that led to America’s credit downgrade and widespread economic fallout during the debt ceiling debate. Any type of repeat performance by these Members would directly hurt hundreds of thousands of America working families. Instead, we need to work together to pass this transportation jobs bill and put people to work rebuilding America.”

On September 30th, 2011, authorization for the Department of Transportation to collect revenue and spend out new funds from the Highway Trust Fund on road, bridge, and transit projects expires. Congress has passed a clean extension of the transportation bill seven times over the past two years. In addition to massive job loss, failure to extend the transportation jobs bill would cost nearly \$1 billion in funding for highway and mass transit projects in the first ten days alone.

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