

April 25, 2025

Dear Members of Congress:

Investments in roads and bridges are vital to America's agriculture industry. These infrastructure improvements significantly enhance rural communities and strengthen our industry supply chains, ensuring efficient delivery of crop inputs for successful harvests and efficient connections between farmers and their domestic and global markets.

A sufficiently and predictably funded Highway Trust Fund (HTF) makes this all possible. However, the HTF is facing challenges that could lead to insolvency within a few years. Further, although Congress established the HTF as a "user-pays" system, not all highway users are contributing equitably. Electric vehicles do not contribute to the HTF at all because they are not subject to the federal fuel tax. Hybrid vehicles, while subject to the fuel tax on the gasoline they consume, contribute less than traditional internal combustion vehicles. Additionally, EVs and hybrid vehicles have heavy batteries that cause more road wear compared to conventional vehicles.

Fairness is a core value on the farm and across rural America. This principle extends to ensuring that all vehicle users, regardless of their fuel type or technology, contribute equitably to the upkeep and improvement of our roads and bridges. It has come to our attention that the House Republicans are seeking to include an equitable solution in their upcoming budget reconciliation package. The undersigned organizations, representing the American agriculture industry, urge Congress to act and ensure that these vehicles contribute an amount comparable to what gasoline and diesel vehicles pay to the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), with all revenues dedicated to the HTF. We encourage a simplistic design for raising revenue from EV and hybrid vehicle owners, such as a supplement to annual registration fees, and to avoid creating a duplicative tax, such as a vehicle miles tax, for gas and diesel vehicle owners. More than 30 states have implemented fees on EV and hybrid vehicle owners to offset revenue lost from traditional gas taxes.

We appreciate Congress' ongoing support of American agriculture and the transportation network that enables a successful rural economy.

Sincerely,

Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference

Agricultural Retailers Association

Agriculture Transportation Coalition

Amcot

American Cotton Shippers Association

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Feed Industry Association

American Soybean Association

Corn Refiners Association

Fresh Produce Association of the Americas

Hardwood Federation

International Fresh Produce Association

National Aquaculture Association

National Association of Wheat Growers

National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grain and Feed Association
National Grange
National Potato Council
North American Millers' Association
North American Renderers Association
Specialty Soya & Grains Alliance
The Fertilizer Institute
USA Rice
U.S. Meat Export Federation