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Dear Senator Cornyn:

On behalf of the more than 8,000 members of the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), I would like to thank you for introducing S. 2586, S. 2587, and S. 2588. We applaud this trio of legislative measures aimed at giving states greater control over the environmental review and approval process for transportation improvement projects. Specifically, the bills would allow states to assume control over certain regulatory decisions pertaining to the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and historic preservation decisions.

ARTBA supports these legislative efforts to increase delegation of environmental regulatory programs to the state level. ARTBA has consistently supported the concept of state delegation of federal environmental review responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) since a five-state pilot program was established by the “Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users” (SAFTE-LU). ARTBA reiterated this support when the pilot program was expanded to include all states in the “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” (MAP-21) reauthorization law. To date, ARTBA has supported efforts in California, Texas, Florida, Ohio, Arizona, Alaska and Utah to participate in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) programs to assume responsibility for federal environmental review of transportation projects.

By allowing states to assume responsibility for additional regulatory decisions rather than provide information to federal agencies on a case-by-case basis, S. 2586, S. 2587 and S. 2588 represent a chance to build upon the success already achieved by delegation of NEPA responsibilities to the states. The increased opportunities for states would help to continue reducing unnecessary delay in building our nation’s transportation infrastructure without sacrificing necessary environmental safeguards.

Put succinctly, delegation works. As FHWA stated on Dec. 22, 2016, “The NEPA Assignment Program reduces duplication, saves time and resources, and avoids compromising our high standards for protecting the human and natural environment. Empowering states in this way saves time and money, making it good government AND good business.”

ARTBA looks forward to continuing to help you more forward with these common sense regulatory reforms.

Sincerely,

T. Peter Ruane  
President & C.E.O