Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 23, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We write to urge you to expeditiously approve Emergency Relief (ER) program funding requested by the State of Washington to repair damage to a bridge on U.S. Route 2, just east of the town of Skykomish at milepost 54.

On November 17, 2015, this 15-mile section of U.S. Route 2 was closed to traffic as a result of heavy rainfall and two mudslides. Rainfall, strong winds, and falling trees from a series of storms that occurred on November 13 through November 18 resulted in Governor Jay Inslee declaring a state of emergency in all counties in Washington state on November 18. These storms tragically killed three people, injured many others, and left hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses without power.

Heavy rainfall from the storms caused a significant amount of erosion underneath a bridge's foundation on U.S. Route 2 just east of Skykomish at milepost 54. Without the material in place to support the eastern half of this bridge, it is too dangerous for drivers to utilize. While temporary repairs are underway, allowing one lane of traffic to be opened on November 22 and for two lanes to open on November 24, it is critical that this roadway is returned to full functionality as quickly as possible.

This section of U.S. Route 2 is an important transportation corridor in Snohomish County, as it connects the town of Skykomish to the east and the popular winter destination at Stevens Pass. It is a major thorough fare for commerce, tourism, and especially outdoor recreation, and carries an average of 9,000 vehicles per day.

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We urge you to grant the State of Washington's request for ER funding for U.S. Route 2 in its entirety as soon as possible, which is estimated to cost between $200,000 and $500,000. We appreciate your work to ensure our constituents have access to this vital transportation link in a safe and reliable manner.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,

Suzan DelBene	Patty Murray	Maria Cantwell
Member of Congress	United States Senator	United States Senator