



Flagstaff Biking Organization
PO Box 23851
Flagstaff, AZ 86002
www.flagstaffbiking.org

February 2, 2012

Congressman Paul Gosar
504 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Sent via US Postal Service and electronic mail

Dear Congressman Gosar-

We are writing to express our strong concerns regarding the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act.

This bill reverses decades of necessary support for bicycle and pedestrian facilities upon which our community and your hometown, Flagstaff, has come to depend.

Flagstaff is a great place to live in part because of the Flagstaff Urban Trail System, (FUTS). This trail system allows folks to get to work or school on bike or foot, is a phenomenal recreational asset and is part of what makes Flagstaff Flagstaff. A substantial portion of the FUTS exists because of dollars from the Transportation Enhancement funding that past transportation bills have authorized.

With the increase in the number of people choosing to ride bicycles in our community has followed an increase in traffic collisions involving bikes. Recently a child was killed while riding his bicycle. (See this article in the Arizona Daily Sun: http://azdailysun.com/news/local/rise-in-cycling-accidents-concerns-police/article_f3c707ab-eb03-564d-81da-6c380eb60c59.html) The Coconino County Health Department, Coconino Safe Kids Coalition, the Flagstaff Police Department and our organization depend upon funding from the Safe Routes to School program to help fund education and free bike helmet programs that help to prevent tragedies like this.

Contrary to the beliefs of some in Congress that the best way to balance our Nation's budget is by cutting small programs for things like bike trails and community infrastructure, we feel that the safety of our citizens and children on their way to work or school is too important to short change. All sorts of Americans choose to walk or ride bicycles. This bill puts all of these folks' safety in jeopardy.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely-

s/Anthony Quintile

For the Board of Flagstaff Biking Organization