

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 30, 2009

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write concerning legislation commonly referred to as the “Cash for Clunkers” bill, which President Obama signed into law last week as part of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (H.R. 2346). We respectfully request that you issue regulations that do not exclude consumers and dealers in the U.S. territories from obtaining the benefits provided by this legislation.

Under the legislation, the Department of Transportation is authorized to issue vouchers to participating dealers to be applied toward the purchase or lease of a new fuel efficient vehicle from July 1–November 1, 2009. To be eligible for the voucher, the consumer must surrender a vehicle to a participating dealer that is less fuel efficient, by a specified number of miles per gallon, than the vehicle he or she is purchasing.

Although nothing in the legislation restricts its application to the 50 states, we write out of an abundance of caution to ensure that the legislation’s coverage extends to the U.S. territories. The U.S. territories have been impacted by the economic recession to the same—if not greater—extent than the 50 states. Beside the absence of any language in the legislation precluding the U.S. territories’ participation in the program, President Obama’s signing statement provides no restriction on the geographical application of the legislation. Additionally, we were advised by the House Committee that drafted the legislation—the Committee on Energy and Commerce—that it intended for consumers and dealers in the U.S. territories to be able to participate in the program. In the absence of any exclusionary language or demonstrated intent by the drafters to exclude the U.S. territories, there is no principled basis for denying consumers and dealers in the territories the benefits afforded by the legislation.

The “Cash for Clunkers” bill promises to help struggling consumers, increase economic growth across the nation, and further environmentally friendly policies. We look forward to the U.S. territories’ full participation under this dynamic program.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Pedro R. Pierluisi  
Member of Congress

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Donna M. Christensen  
Member of Congress

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Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress

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Eni F.H. Faleomavaega  
Member of Congress

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Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
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