

**Statement for the Record in support of the Nadler/Lipinski Amendment**  
**Rules Committee**  
**Rep. Judy Chu**  
**2/14/2012**

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Chairman, Ranking Member and other Members of the Committee thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak in support of the Nadler/Lipinski (Nadler\_096) amendment to American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012 (H.R. 7). I strongly support inclusion of this amendment in the rule on H.R. 7.

This amendment would restore the Projects of National and Regional Significance program that was unfortunately eliminated from the underlying bill. This is a critical program that has truly embodied what a federal transportation strategy should be: focusing on large, regional and nationally significant transportation projects that benefit and impact many Americans and are almost too big for one area or even one state to complete on their own. This program supports the type of transportation projects that America is known for, like the Hoover Dam or the San Francisco Bridge, and that have a broader and more significant impact on our national economy.

Take the Alameda Corridor-East program in my district. This is an aggressive project, started in 1998, to make our roads safer, reduce congestion and speed up the transport of imported and exported goods from the ports in Los Angeles and Long Beach. Because nearly 25% of all goods coming through our nation's ports travel inland along the Alameda Corridor-East Trade Corridor through the San Gabriel Valley to destinations across the country, this is an important regional and national project. It was because the project had such significant national economic impact that Congress designated it as a Project of National and Regional Significance in SAFETEA-LU.

We cannot eliminate the Projects of National and Regional Significance program because we would be losing an important avenue to complete projects like the Alameda Corridor-East. If this program and funding is restored, in the San Gabriel Valley we can continue eliminating congestion, emissions from idling vehicles, train warning horn and bell noise, delays for emergency responders and, perhaps most importantly, the potential for deadly crossing collisions at 20 crossings in my district and in many other regions and states across the country.

I strongly support this amendment and urge the committee to rule it in order so the full House can decide whether we want to continue to support projects of regional and national significance, like the Alameda-Corridor East project.

Thank you.