

**Testimony Submitted by Rep. Maxine Waters  
Rules Committee Hearing on  
H.Con.Res. 25 – Budget Resolution  
March 18, 2013**

I submitted an amendment to H.Con.Res. 25, the Budget Resolution, to create jobs while supporting investment in our nation's infrastructure. My amendment is based on H.R. 1124, the TIGER Grants for Job Creation Act. I introduced this legislation last week, and it already has 64 cosponsors. I respectfully request that the Rules Committee allow me to offer this amendment and waive all points of order against the amendment.

My amendment will provide an emergency supplemental appropriation totaling one billion dollars over the next two years for job creation through investments in transportation infrastructure. This emergency supplemental appropriation will not be subject to sequestration.

The economy is struggling to recover from the recession. The unemployment rate is nearly eight percent nationwide and is even higher in minority and disadvantaged communities. Meanwhile, the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure estimated that there is a \$549.5 billion shortfall in investments in roads and bridges and an additional \$190.1 billion shortfall in investments in transit.

TIGER – formally known as Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery – is a nationwide competitive grant program that creates jobs by funding investments in transportation infrastructure by states, local governments, and transit agencies. TIGER funds projects that will have a significant impact on our nation's highway and transit infrastructure.

According to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, "These are innovative, 21<sup>st</sup> century projects that will change the U.S. transportation landscape by strengthening the economy and creating jobs, reducing gridlock and providing safe, affordable and environmentally sustainable transportation choices."

TIGER received \$500 million in fiscal year 2012, and the President requested \$500 million for the program in fiscal year 2013. However, the Secretary of Transportation has been unable to organize a competition for TIGER grants this year due to the uncertainty surrounding sequestration and fiscal year 2013 appropriations.

Passage of an emergency supplemental appropriation would provide funding for TIGER free from sequestration and without reducing funding for other domestic programs. It would also allow states, local governments, and transit agencies to begin immediately to plan projects and prepare grant applications, thus ensuring an efficient use of funds and timely job creation.

I thank the Rules Committee for considering my amendment and respectfully request that the rule for the budget resolution allow me to offer this amendment on the House floor and provide waivers where necessary.