

September 15, 2009

To: Members of the United States Senate

I am writing to urge you to vote **NO** on three proposed amendments by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) that would block funding in the FY10 Transportation Appropriations bill (H.R. 3288) from going to *transportation museums* and would threaten *historic preservation efforts*.

As you may know, Sen. Coburn and Sen. McCain have filed several amendments to this bill, including three Limitation of Funds Amendments (S. AMDT. 2370, S. AMDT. 2371, and S. AMDT. 2372) targeting the Transportation Enhancement program.

S. AMDT. 2370, as filed, prohibits any of the funds in H.R. 3288 to be used for, "*...the reduction of vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or the maintenance of habitat connectivity; transportation museums; scenic beautification projects; and pedestrian or bicycle facility projects.*"

S. AMDT. 2371, as filed, states that none of the funds made available by the bill may be used to implement the section of the U.S. Code [133(d)(2) of title 23] that requires states to set aside 10% of funding for Transportation Enhancements (including historic preservation and museums).

S. AMDT. 2372, as filed, prohibits any of the funds in H.R. 3288 to be used for a museum.

On behalf of our nation's 17,500 museums, we strongly urge you to **OPPOSE** any of these amendments (or any combination or revision of them).

The Transportation Enhancement Program has allowed states and communities to:

- Rehabilitate bridges and tunnels
- Restore historic structures and revitalize local historic districts
- Preserve our nation's heritage and state and local history

Transportation museums, historic battlefields and properties, and restored facilities (such as historic railroad depots, lighthouses, terminals and piers) have all also played critical roles in stimulating local economies and businesses and creating and sustaining jobs. Considering that visitors to cultural and heritage destinations stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other kinds of tourists, we should be investing more in these projects, not less.

Again, we urge you to **OPPOSE** any amendment offered by Sen. Coburn that prohibits funding for transportation museums or threatens historic preservation or other related efforts. Please contact me or AAM's Assistant Director of Government Relations, Carla Myers, at 202-218-7699 or cmyers@aam-us.org if we can provide any additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ford W. Bell, DVM