

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2019

Denise Bulat
Executive Director
Bi-State Regional Commission
ATTN: Quad Cities MPO Policy Committee
1504 Third Avenue, Third Floor
Rock Island, IL 61201

Dear Members of the Quad Cities MPO Policy Committee,

On December 3, 2015, the US House of Representatives passed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which authorized funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, transit programs and other important transportation and safety programs. Through subsequent appropriations bills, Congress has provided funding for the U.S. Department of Transportation and key infrastructure projects throughout the nation, including in the Quad Cities.

The FAST Act includes language that guarantees certain protections that Congress found to be beneficial for our American communities: promoting the purchase of American steel, incentivizing apprenticeship programs and the use of disadvantaged business enterprises, implementing environmental safeguards and protecting the local workforce by ensuring a prevailing wage would be paid.

It has been brought to our attention that the Iowa Department of Transportation recently established a program whereby the federal funds appropriated for your community are being "swapped" for state funding in order to circumvent the congressional intent for how this money is spent. We believe this practice of swapping funds misuses these resources, and urge the Bi-State Commission to opt-out of the program.

The Quad Cities is a unique community spanning two states and the Mississippi River, leaving the Bi-State Commission with a similarly unique mandate. Participating in the aid swap program will ultimately harm not only the Quad Cities as a community sharing a unified identity, but also the labor force as it faces weaker protections and lower pay. By opting out of the swap program, you have the opportunity to ensure that public dollars spent in the Quad Cities stay local, preserve our environment and guarantee important protections for hardworking families in our region.

Sincerely,



Dave Loeb sack
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress