

ANGIE CRAIG
2ND DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
AVIATION
RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2302

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND
RISK MANAGEMENT
COMMODITY EXCHANGES, ENERGY AND CREDIT
LIVESTOCK AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURE, TRADE
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
INVESTIGATIONS, OVERSIGHT AND REGULATIONS

December 6, 2019

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
H-232, the Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
H-107, the Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer,

As negotiations on end-of-year legislation continue, I urge you to prioritize and include programs of significant importance to Minnesota's Second Congressional District:

CREATES Act

One of the main issues I hear about from Minnesota families is the outrageous cost of prescription drugs. That's unacceptable, and we have the ability to change that by putting people's lives above politics and holding the big brand name drug companies accountable. I encourage House leadership to consider the inclusion of bipartisan legislation to take action on this important matter. As you know, one of these proposals is the CREATES Act, which aims to facilitate the timely entry of lower-cost generic and biosimilar versions of brand-name drugs and biological products to promote competition in the market for such products.

IDEA & Career and Technical Education Funding

As a parent of a child with special needs, I have experienced firsthand how important it is to ensure students have the resources they need to succeed. I was pleased to see the House take action earlier this year to provide over \$14 billion for special education, a nearly 8% increase over the 2019 enacted level. Fully funding special education helps every Minnesota student succeed and ensures that schools have all the resources they need to give students a high-quality education.

Additionally, I appreciated the House adopting my amendment earlier this year to ensure Congress prioritizes funding for Perkins Grants, which help young people attend Career and Technical Training programs, contribute to our economy, and rethink post-secondary education. Any year-end package should maintain the robust funding for these programs.

Rural Broadband

As a Member of Majority Whip Clyburn's Task Force to provide coordination and leadership to end the rural-digital divide, significant investment in rural broadband to benefit my constituents is one of my top priorities. In the House spending package earlier this year, I co-led an amendment to secure an additional \$55 million for the USDA ReConnect program and call on

House leadership to continue this strong momentum - conference negotiators should include maximum funding for rural broadband in the year-end package.

Capital Investment Grants

Since 2015, officials in the Twin Cities metropolitan area have planned for FY20 funding levels consistent with the authorized levels for transit included in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation ("FAST") Act. Any reductions will have both current and out-year implications for projects that are vitally important to transit in the Twin Cities metro area. More specifically, any reduction in federal funding for transit will constrain our ability to advance current and future regional projects. As such, I encourage negotiators to include at least \$700 million for New Starts and maintain the proposed increase in the FTA's State of Good Repair program, Section 5337.

Additionally, I understand that there are ongoing discussions between leadership and committees of jurisdiction beyond just our House Appropriators, including negotiations on tax extenders and other revenue measures.

Low Income Housing Tax Credit

While more certainty has been provided in recent years on the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, I call on House leadership to prioritize action on affordable housing in the end of year package. For example, Rep. DelBene's Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act of 2019 would help produce more units of affordable housing and better serve a number of at-risk and underserved communities.

Shortline Tax Credit

I support the continuation of the short line railroad Section 45G tax credit, which was originally enacted in 2005 to spur infrastructure investment by hundreds of short line and regional railroads. As you know, the Ways and Means Committee has marked up legislation that would extend the 45G tax credit through December 31, 2020, and retroactively enact the credit from January 1, 2018, forward in section 112. I support those committee efforts and urge the inclusion of this in an end of year package.

Medical Device Tax

I have heard from numerous constituents and stakeholders regarding their concerns about the resumption of the medical device tax on January 1, 2020. The 2.3% tax on the sale of virtually all medical devices would result in layoffs in Minnesota as manufacturers adjust their operating expenses to address the resumption of the tax. I worked in med tech in 2012 when these employee cuts previously occurred and they will happen again. I encourage the House to address this looming hike before the end of the calendar year.

Cadillac Tax

I continue to hear from constituents and businesses in my district about the need to repeal the Cadillac Tax. While the House passed the Middle-Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act with sweeping bipartisan support, the Senate has yet to take action. As working families struggle with rising health care costs, the Cadillac Tax threatens to make health care even more unaffordable. Given the Senate's inaction, I urge House Leadership to consider including the Cadillac Tax repeal in an end-of-year spending package.

Biodiesel Tax Credit

Extending the biodiesel, alternative fuel mixture credit, and second-generation biofuel producer tax credits are especially important to my district. Minnesota farmers have lost significant demand for biofuels feedstock at a time when they are coping with hardship created by the ongoing trade war and small refinery waivers. In June, the Ways and Means Committee favorably reported legislation that extends these lapsed energy provisions through 2020. I applaud this progress and urge you to move forward with a legislative package that includes the credits.

Thank you for your consideration of my recommendations and for your leadership in addressing these important priorities for Minnesota and the nation.

Sincerely,



Angie Craig
Member of Congress