

# United States Senate

March 1, 2013

Mr. John Schmidt  
3126 Hulbert Avenue  
Erlanger, Kentucky 41018-0010

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Brent Spence Bridge. Hearing from you helps me better represent Kentucky in the United States Senate.

No sir; i advocated for **Augmentation.**

In your correspondence, **you advocated for replacement** of the Brent Spence Bridge as a federal infrastructure priority. I am keenly aware of the critical role the Brent Spence Bridge plays to our Commonwealth as well as the national economy, as I understand an estimated 3-4% of our Gross Domestic Product annually traverses this functionally obsolete span between Kentucky and Ohio.

As you may know, major transportation infrastructure projects are largely funded by the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), which is financed by a federal per gallon tax on fuel. While overall spending levels and per-state allocation formulas are decided by Congress, federal transportation monies are allocated to the states that, in turn, have oversight over how that money is disbursed throughout Kentucky and which individual projects receive funding.

The most promising course of action for local officials to obtain federal funding for a new Brent Spence Bridge is for them to work with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and our General Assembly to explore the use of HTF dollars along with state funds to secure adequate resources for the project. Similarly, tolling decisions are ultimately made at the state and local level. I therefore would encourage you to share your views with your elected representatives in the Kentucky General Assembly. You can access the contact information for your state legislators by visiting: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/legislators.htm>. You may also wish to contact KYTC to voice your concerns at phone number 502-564-4890, or by United States Postal Mail at:

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
200 Mero Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40622

Again, I appreciate your concern for this important **Northern Kentucky transportation infrastructure matter**. If you would like to receive periodic updates, please sign up for my eNewsletter at <http://mcconnell.senate.gov/> and become a fan of my page on Facebook, by visiting <http://www.facebook.com/mitchmcconnell>. In the meantime, I hope you will continue to keep me informed of issues important to you.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/th

But Senator,

The

**National Freedom Bridge**

is **not** a local matter!!

Raise the Federal Gas Tax one Dime >  
\$20Billion/yr.

Politically easiest, most strategically correct tax to raise!!