The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski:

Senate Report 112-83 accompanying the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2012 (S. 1596), requests the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), in coordination with the United States Trade Representative (USTR), to report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding actions DOT or other executive agencies have taken to ensure that Mexico offers reciprocal treatment to U.S. bus companies that wish to provide domestic, intercity bus service and cross-border services in Mexico. The Secretary has asked me to respond on his behalf.

As of April 25, 2012, Greyhound Bus Lines’ (Greyhound) Mexican subsidiary, Greyhound Lines Mexico, has been granted Federal authority to operate on a route between Tijuana International Airport and the San Ysidro Port of Entry in San Diego, California, by the Mexican Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (SCT). This sets a strong precedent in that it provides authority for a U.S.-owned Mexican bus company to provide intercity bus service in Mexico in motorcoaches bearing Federal plates similar to those of any other Mexican bus company, in compliance with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The DOT made coordinated efforts with USTR and the State Department, through the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, to engage Mexican counterpart agencies on the issue beginning in April 2010. At that time, the Government of Mexico maintained firmly that this issue, related to compliance with a NAFTA obligation, would be resolved only with successful resolution of the long-standing dispute regarding Long-Haul Cross-Border Trucking, another mutual commitment under NAFTA. While DOT and cooperating U.S. agencies continued to advocate for Greyhound, it was only when the United States and Mexico signed an agreement in July 2011 to initiate a Long-Haul Cross-Border Trucking Pilot Program—leading to the removal of $2.4 billion in punitive Mexican tariffs on U.S. products—that the Government of Mexico signaled a willingness to address the Greyhound application.

The approval of the Greyhound application on April 25, 2012, fulfilled the Government of Mexico’s commitment to resolve this issue. Greyhound has one motorcoach registered to
perform passenger transportation service to and from the airport and the maritime port in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico.

The DOT coordinates with the Mexican SCT on a number of transportation issues of mutual interest, and it will continue to follow subsequent applications for operating authority for U.S.-owned bus operators in Mexico with great interest. The Department will continue to coordinate with USTR, the State Department, and other agencies regarding mutual commitments on transportation issues under NAFTA.

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Should you need additional information or assistance, please contact John Drake, Director for Governmental Affairs, at (202) 366-1927 or by email at john.drake@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Anne S. Ferro
Dear Vice Chairman Shelby:

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Sincerely,

Anne S. Ferro
The Honorable Susan Collins  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20510

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Sincerely,

Anne S. Ferro
The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Congresswoman Lowey:

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Sincerely,

[Signature]
Anne S. Ferro
The Honorable Tom Latham  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515  

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Sincerely,

Anne S. Ferro
The Honorable Ed Pastor  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
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