

Dear Mr. Grimes:

Thank you for contacting me to share your thoughts for an economic stimulus package with emphasis on funding for local infrastructure improvements.

A number of ideas are currently circulating through Congress for an economic stimulus package, including proposals for additional spending on roads, bridges, schools, and other "ready to go" infrastructure projects in order to improve local economies and create jobs. I am closely monitoring these deliberations.

I share your concerns about addressing the aging infrastructure of our roads, bridges, dams, and sewers. I am working to make certain that funds are available for infrastructure improvements and enhancements that help our cities, towns, and communities. Specifically, I support funding for worthwhile federal programs that offer technical assistance and funding for urban and rural communities. It is important that these resources are available to state and local officials who are responsible for ensuring that our cities and towns have adequate water and wastewater treatment facilities and systems, as well as roadways and bridges. These programs are essential to our efforts to improve the quality of life and the standard of living for all Hoosiers.

Policies that foster job creation and a healthy labor market are of vital importance to our economic security, and I will continue to work in the Senate to support responsible legislation that achieves these goals. In particular, I support legislative proposals that encourage entrepreneurship, general education, worker re-training, and innovation. Likewise, I believe low interest rates, minimal inflation, and reductions in taxes are imperative to fiscal soundness and the fostering of a strong business environment, job creation, and economic growth.

It is likely that the Senate will consider an economic stimulus bill in the near future. I will keep your support in mind as various proposals are developed and considered.

Again, thank you for contacting me.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator