



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

I look forward to welcoming you to the Great State of New Hampshire today. Every time a sitting United States President visits New Hampshire is an honor and more importantly -- an opportunity to highlight why New Hampshire is the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

While I know you are traveling here to discuss the impacts the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will have on New Hampshire, and specifically the bridge in Woodstock that runs over the Pemigewasset River, I hope you will consider some of the following concerns I have with the IIJA and other issues facing New Hampshire and the nation.

Below please find a few questions for your Administration ahead of your scheduled stop so that you are aware of the issues impacting New Hampshire residents.

1. **New Hampshire continues to receive the lowest total funding of all 50 states for highway programs.**<sup>1</sup> Can New Hampshire count on you to work with Congress to ensure a more equitable funding formula for highway apportionment in future reauthorization packages?
2. **How do you plan to address severe supply chain issues, chronic workforce shortages, and skyrocketing inflationary costs that will make these funds difficult to invest?** The cost of building roads, bridges, and pipelines is at an all-time high, we have heard from construction workers who plan to leave the workforce if the vaccine mandate goes through, and CDL drivers will be harder to come by as the federal government increases the hurdles to obtaining a license. Ensuring that roads get built, bridges get repaired, and drinking water gets improved will be even more challenging given the economic challenges Washington seems oblivious to.
3. **How much flexibility will states have in utilizing these new funds?** Each state is different and every state will have unique challenges to address, so I respectfully request your Administration provide as much flexibility as possible for how states can allocate funding received from the IIJA and other spending packages. Too often, the guidance is top-down and provides little to no flexibility for states to chart their own path.
4. **Will you reconsider your policies that are limiting American production and driving up costs of home heating fuel this winter?** My office has received numerous inquiries from concerned New Hampshire citizens about inflation, and specifically the increased cost of home

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<sup>1</sup> [IIJA-Highway-Appportionment-Estimates-August-2021.pdf \(transportation.org\)](#)

heating fuel. The U.S. Energy Information Administration projects nearly half of U.S. households will spend more than 30% more than last year if they heat their homes with natural gas, 54% if they heat their homes with propane, and 43% more if they heat their homes with heating oil.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, New England will experience the brunt of these projected increases and they will hit our most vulnerable citizens the hardest.

As President of the United States, you are in a unique position to provide real time solutions on all these issues. Thank you for taking the time to consider these critical concerns facing New Hampshire's citizens.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor

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<sup>2</sup> Short-Term Energy Outlook - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)