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Ronald W. Kosh
Vice President
Public & Government Affairs

September 16, 2010

Mr. Keith Laughlin, President
Rails to Trails Conservancy
Fifth Floor
2121 Ward Court, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Laughlin:

A copy of your letter to Mr. Robert Darbelnet concerning the editorial by Mr. Gagnon in AAA World has been received. Mr. Gagnon has asked that I reply.

First, thank you for your years of AAA membership. We work hard to offer excellent membership value and to represent motorists well on the myriad of issues they face. Currently, none of those is more daunting than highway safety and insufficient transportation funding.

We understand fully that some of our members may want transportation choices. As Mr. Darbelnet, said in his response to your letter: "AAA's positions are clear: seek support for a transportation system that provides choices and multi-modal opportunities, which is affordable and accessible for all users and facilitates personal travel needs." To that end, AAA envisions a system that makes safety a top priority. In order to achieve this result, it is imperative Congress re-think how the federal transportation program is structured and funded.

Your statement that Mr. Gagnon is blaming an \$89 billion annual shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund on bike trails completely mischaracterizes AAA Mid Atlantic's position. His article noted a number of programs that weren't part of the original Highway Trust Fund scope that have been added over the years while funding sources have remained static.

Contrary to what you assert in your letter, nowhere did Mr. Gagnon say that we should not fund bike trails (or hiking trails, sidewalks, museums or mass transit). His exact words: "So why not let the Highway Trust Fund pay for our highways and **let general revenues address the other expenses.**" That is far different than stating that AAA wants Congress to cut funds for bike trails. AAA did not, would not, and will not call on Congress to de-fund those other items.

I hope this clarifies for you our position. Again, thank you for your long time AAA membership and for reading AAA World magazine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald W. Kosh', written in a cursive style.

CC: Don Gagnon
Robert Darbelnet