

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 11, 2013

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

On March 6, 2013, we wrote a letter to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood strongly opposing the XpressWest loan application and calling on the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate the project. Our letter also requested that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) suspend final determinations on funding for the XpressWest project while this GAO analysis is pending.

DOT recently informed us of their decision to indefinitely suspend its review of the XpressWest loan application. XpressWest was informed of this decision in a letter from Secretary LaHood dated June 28, 2013. DOT has not yet released a copy of the letter to our offices; however, the agency has briefed our staff on its contents. We have been informed that the letter explains that "serious issues persist" with the XpressWest loan application; that there are "significant uncertainties still surrounding the project"; and that, as a result, USDOT has "decided to suspend further consideration" of the XpressWest loan request.

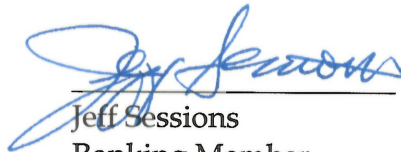
In response to our March 6th letter, GAO initiated a review of the XpressWest project and the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing loan program. We greatly appreciate the work of your staff in looking into this important issue. After an opportunity to more fully review the contents of the June 28th letter, our offices will contact GAO to discuss how this recent action by DOT may warrant modification to our March 6th request.

Again, thank you for GAO's attention to this issue.

Very truly yours,



Paul Ryan
Chairman
House Budget Committee



Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Senate Budget Committee