

DENNIS J. KUCINICH

11th District, Ohio

2445 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5871

1100 DELAWARE AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
(614) 228-8850

PARMADOWN MAIL
7904 DAY DRIVE
PARMA, OH 44129
(440) 845-2707



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

www.kucinich.house.gov

House of Representatives
State and Social Responsibility Affairs
SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
STATES

Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform

U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20540

January 17, 2012

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor of Ohio
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

Dear Governor Kasich:

As you may know, the Innerbelt Bridge project in Cleveland has been a priority for many years as part of the Interstate-90 (I-90) reconstruction. The current bridge is at the end of its useful life. For the safety of the people of the Cleveland area who use I-90, it is time to replace this bridge.

Local, county, state and federal officials, and the people of the Cleveland area, have been through many years of planning, including procedures under the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. I have been working with the State of Ohio, my colleagues in Congress, local officials, and the people of Northeast Ohio on I-90 bridge replacement since it first went into planning. I have met with Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) officials about this project, heard their advocacy for it, and have strongly supported their efforts and the efforts of many others for the rebuilding of the bridges as planned. Construction has begun on this project.

Therefore, I must strongly oppose any change of priority at ODOT for the completion of the two bridges currently under planning, development, and construction, along I-90 over the Cuyahoga River. The planning of these bridges spans the last 4 state administrations. In addition to our area congressional delegation, the project been supported by governors, members of the Ohio House and Senate, and local officials of both parties throughout Northeast Ohio. This is not the time to change the game plan for Cleveland's cityscape. Continuing use of the existing bridge increases the hazard to the motoring public, in addition to setting the stage for long delays as traffic backs up in all directions due to the reduced capacity of the existing bridge. Ultimately, this is a matter of safety to the traveling public and the quality of life of the people who live in the Cleveland area.

I ask that you immediately restore the Innerbelt Bridge project to its place of top priority. I will be pleased to work with you to gain bi-partisan support for any additional funds which can help complete the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis J. Kucinich". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

DJK: mg