

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
November 4, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

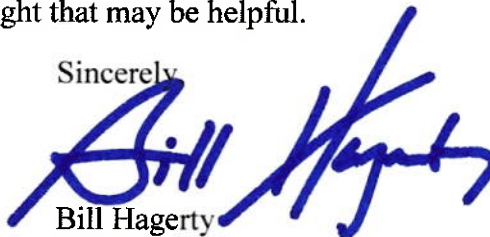
As we move into a presidential transition period, I write today to remind you of your statutory transfer-of-funds-authority and change-of-program requirements under the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024* (Public Law 118-42), which will continue to apply with the same force during the transition. Compliance with these requirements must be a priority for the outgoing administration, given the criminal and administrative consequences of failing to do so.

As you know, the federal government is currently operating on a continuing resolution, the *Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025* (Public Law 118-83), which extends the requirements of Public Law 118-42 through December 20, 2024. The appropriations acts in Public Law 118-42 contain numerous limitations on transferring funds or altering programs or activities, including but not limited to the first proviso under the heading "Salaries and Expenses" under "Office of the Secretary" in Title I, Division F, which details very specific instructions and limitations regarding transfers of funds between offices, Section 105 of Division F, which prohibits retention bonuses for senior executives without written approval, Section 183 of Division F, which limits the number of political appointees, Section 187 of Division F, which details the approval process should the Department make any changes to programs, projects, or activities or engage in any reprogramming of funds, and Sections 402 and 405 of Division F, which detail very specific instructions and limitations regarding transfers of funds between agencies and accounts not otherwise permitted by applicable appropriations laws.

Federal law requires compliance with these requirements. The *Antideficiency Act*, 31 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 1517, prohibits federal employees from obligating or expending federal funds in violation of appropriations laws. Federal employees who violate the *Antideficiency Act* are subject to both administrative and criminal sanctions, including suspension from duty without pay, removal from office, and fines, imprisonment, or both.

As the Biden Administration works to transfer the power and authorities of the President of the United States and the Executive Branch in a timely, transparent, and lawful manner, adherence to these legal obligations is imperative. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information, assistance, or oversight that may be helpful.

Sincerely,



Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator

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cc: The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair, Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate  
The Honorable Susan Collins, Vice Chair, Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate  
The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Shalanda D. Young, Director, Office of Management and Budget  
The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States