



November 4, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Latham
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairmen:

The Business Coalition for Fair Competition (BCFC) (www.governmentcompetition.org) is a national coalition of businesses, associations, taxpayer organizations and think tanks that are committed to reducing all forms of unfair government created, sponsored and provided competition with the private sector.

BCFC urges your strong opposition to a job-killing, anti-business provision included in the FY 2012 Senate Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill. Section 167 of S. 1596, and found within H.R. 2112, the first Senate "minibus", prevents enforcement of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Charter Service regulations in the service area of King County Metro (KCM) in Seattle, Washington. Senator Patty Murray has included this provision in the bill, exempting one transit agency in the country from a federal rule designed to protect private motorcoach operators from unfair competition from publicly subsidized transit operators.

Since 1973, transit law has prohibited transit entities which receive federal funds from providing charter bus operations in competition with private bus and school bus operators. Congress' intent in enacting and continuing this provision was to prevent unfair competition between federally funded public transportation systems and private, tax-paying bus and school bus operators.

BCFC believes the free enterprise system is the most productive and efficient provider of goods and services and strongly supports restoring the Charter Service Rule prohibiting encroachment of federally funded public transits from unfairly competing for private charter work across the nation, including in King County, Washington. BCFC respectfully recommends that the Murray provision inhibiting the utilization of the private sector not be included in the Conference Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Palatiello", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

John M. Palatiello, President

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cc:
Speaker Boehner
Majority Leader Cantor
Reps. Young, Lewis, Wolf, Kingston, Aderholt, Emerson, Culberson, Carter, Bonner, LaTourette