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Building America's Future Congratulates Congressman Ray LaHood's Transportation Secretary Nomination

Washington, DC - Today President-elect Barack Obama announced the nomination of Congressman Ray LaHood (R-IL) as transportation secretary. In response, Mayor Michael Bloomberg (NY), Governor Ed Rendell (PA) and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (CA), co-chairs of Building America's Future, issued the following:

"We congratulate Congressman LaHood on his nomination as U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Congressman LaHood has a long and distinguished career in the U.S. House of Representatives with a reputation for working across the aisle and supporting common sense approaches to problem-solving, and we look forward to working with him to rebuild our nation's infrastructure.

"Infrastructure investment is critically needed to help create jobs and long-term economic prosperity and to promote energy security and a healthy environment. Too many of our families waste hours stuck in traffic or delayed at airports because of overcrowded runways. We simply must do more to repair and modernize our crumbling schools and bridges, overcrowded railways, inadequate levees, and aging power grids and waterways to ensure a high level of safety and quality of life for all Americans.

"In the coming weeks, the new Administration and Congress are poised to make a once-in-a-generation investment in our nation's infrastructure. The American people are rightly demanding leadership, creativity and new approaches to old problems. We call on the new Administration and Congress to reform the failed policies of the past and craft a bold economic recovery bill that addresses urgent national needs and delivers results, cost-effectiveness, accountability and transparency."

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Building America's Future (www.InvestInInfrastructure.org) is a bipartisan and non-profit organization dedicated to bringing about a new era of U.S. investment in infrastructure that enhances our nation's prosperity and quality of life. Comprised of state and locally elected officials from around the nation, *Building America's Future* seeks to advance a new national vision for infrastructure investment that focuses on economic growth and global competitiveness, creation of economic opportunity for all Americans, and environmental sustainability.