[DATE], 2019

The Honorable XXXXXXXXXX

United States House of Representatives

XXXXX XXXXX House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. XXXXXX:

On behalf of the [YOUR UNION], I am writing to **request your co-sponsorship of HR 1099 (Serrano**), legislation that requires public employees to perform the construction inspection on federally funded transportation projects. [YOUR UNION] represents [DESCRIBE YOUR MEMBERSHIP].

Construction inspectors are the eyes, ears, and voice of the public. Public inspectors ensure that construction standards are met, that projects meet safety requirements, and that the materials used will stand the test of time.

When the construction inspection function is outsourced to a private company, there is no longer a representative of the public on the job site. David M. Walker, the former Comptroller General of the United States, described the issue well in a *New York Times* article that was exploring the overuse of government contractors: “There’s something civil servants have that the private sector doesn’t, and that is the duty of loyalty to the greater good – the duty of loyalty to the collective best interest of all rather than the interest of a few. Companies have duties of loyalty to their shareholders, not to the country.”

Unfortunately, across the nation, many departments of transportation are outsourcing construction inspection with costly and sometimes disastrous results. High profile examples include Boston’s Big Dig (where a concrete slab from a tunnel ceiling fell and killed a woman), the Los Angeles Redline subway (Hollywood Boulevard collapsed), and the Connecticut I-84 project (hundreds of drains that lead nowhere).

We hope you recognize the need for HR 1099 and will join us by co-sponsoring this important legislation. To do so, please call Valentin Castillo in Rep. Serrano’s office at 202/225-4361 or e-mail him at valentin.castillo@mail.house.gov. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact [UNION CONTACT] at [PHONE NUMBER OR E-MAIL].

Thank you,

[NAME]

[TITLE, UNION]