

Dear Friend,

Nonprofits have been hit especially hard by the economic downturn, at a time when the need for their social services has increased. According to a recent national [survey](#) of 986 nonprofits by the Nonprofit Finance Fund, only 16 percent expect they will be able to cover their operating expenses this year, while 93 percent expect an increase in demand for services – including basic services like food and shelter. We need to ensure that nonprofits have the resources to provide their vital services to members of our community.

To increase the capacity of nonprofits and community organizations, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act created the [Strengthening Communities Fund](#), which includes two grant programs: the [State,](#)

[Local, and Tribal Governments Capacity Building Program](#)

and the

[Nonprofit Capacity Building Program](#)

. For more information about these programs and whether an organization you support is eligible to apply for funding, please click

[here](#)

. Applications for both grant programs are due on July 7, 2009.

To learn more about Recovery Act funding and grant opportunities, please [contact me](#) or visit [grants.gov](#)

and

[recovery.gov](#)

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We Need a 21st Century Transportation Strategy

Our current transportation system is inadequate for the 21st century. A 2007 [study](#) found that because of increased traffic congestion, in one year, Americans wasted 2.9 billion gallons of

fuel, \$78 billion in fuel costs, and 4.2 billion hours of time – time consumers could have been spent with their families. New Jerseyans are affected more than most commuters. The U.S. Census Bureau recently determined that of the towns in the U.S. with the longest average daily commute time, three of the top ten are in Central New Jersey: Marlboro (46 minute average commute time), Manalapan (42.7 minutes), and West Windsor (42.1 minutes).

As Congress begins work to improve our nation's transportation system, I introduced legislation with other Members of Congress to provide a framework for a comprehensive, long-term transportation strategy that addresses our nation's economic, energy, and environmental challenges. Since the Department of Transportation [was created](#) in 1966, our transportation policy has been directed toward protecting and expanding the highway system. We need a new approach. Click [here](#) to read more about my objectives and the 10 benchmarks our bill would establish to ensure we are meeting those objectives.

Town Hall in Monroe on Saturday, June 20

On Saturday, June 20th at 2:30 p.m. I will be holding a town hall meeting at the Performing Arts Center of [Monroe Township High School](#). The high school is located at 1629 Perrineville Road. If you have any questions, please call me toll free at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT. I hope to see you in Monroe, but if you are unable to attend, please feel free to send [me](#) any questions.

Reminder: Monmouth County Three Faiths Walk

This Sunday, interfaith groups will take part in the third "Three Faiths Walk" in Central New Jersey. I wrote about the Three Faiths Walk in a previous [eGenda](#). This event will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the Islamic Society of Monmouth County, located at Red Hill Road in Middletown. Participants will be bused from the Mosque to the other houses of worship. After a clergy presentation and exchange among the three houses of worship, at 4:30 p.m. participants will go to the Monmouth University student center for a large multicultural event. I understand that we will be joined by Josh DuBois, a former member of my Congressional staff who President Obama appointed as the Executive Director of the [White House Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships](#). For more information, call 732-531-6200 ext. 216.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress

P.S. Just a reminder: I always want to hear from you, but please don't reply to this e-mail. Instead, please email me through my website at www.holt.house.gov , or call me at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT (1-877-874-4658) to let me know what's on your mind. Please also note that you may unsubscribe from this list by clicking on the "unsubscribe" link at the bottom of this email.