



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

May 19, 2026

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Via E-Mail

Dear Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Garcia:

I write to express my opposition to H.R. 8801, the DC ROADS Act, which purports to prevent the District government from implementing a congestion pricing system on our local roads.

H.R. 8801 is an unnecessary intrusion on Home Rule and District residents' ability to govern themselves. It is unnecessary because the proposal H.R. 8801 seeks to prevent is not pending; it hasn't even seen the light of day. Moreover, Congress can already disapprove laws on any topic that have been adopted by the Council and signed by the Mayor. That disapproval process has been used multiple times in recent years.

H.R. 8801 is also intrusive because there is no need to permanently prevent the Council and the Mayor from legislating on specific topics, as the bill would do. The Council and the Mayor should have the same ability as their counterparts in other jurisdictions to pursue policies that would be in residents' best interests. An arbitrary ban on local legislation touching on a subject currently in the news is a bad precedent that could bring unintended consequences.

One study was conducted of congestion pricing in the District several years ago, and the idea has not been pursued any further. To date, no legislation has been proposed to implement a congestion pricing system of any sort here. No hearings have been held to examine the issue further and nothing in the local budget the Council is currently considering would implement any sort of tolling or other congestion pricing tool in our downtown or anywhere else in the city.

I ask that you and your colleagues oppose reporting H.R. 8801 to the House floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Mendelson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Phil Mendelson
Chairman