

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 4, 2012

U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.  
Docket Operations, M-30, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

**RE: Federal Transit Administration docket number FTA-2012-0029**

To Whom It May Concern:

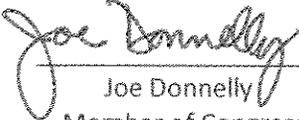
We write today in support of the Vehicle Production Group LLC's (VPG) request that the Federal Transit Administration rescind the "Buy America" waiver, published in Federal Register in June 2010, for minivans and minivan chassis [FTA-2012-0029]. This waiver has allowed FTA funds to be utilized to purchase minivans whose final assembly is completed outside of the United States for later conversion to handicap accessibility. The waiver was only to be in place until a Buy America product was made available.

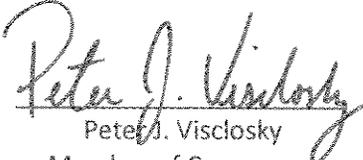
We support the intent of the "Buy America" program and its goal of ensuring that U.S. taxpayer dollars are used to purchase products that have at least 60% of their content manufactured, and final assembly completed, in the United States. This helps support American industries and American workers. The MV-1, produced by the VPG, satisfies the "Buy America" goal while creating a price competitive product which allows for universal access. In addition, it provides an optional factory-direct compressed natural gas (CNG) powertrain, allowing American manufacturers to be competitive in new and evolving technologies.

The MV-1 is a wheelchair-accessible factory-produced vehicle assembled in Mishawaka, Indiana, which meets or exceeds all "Buy America" qualifications for Federal funding. The MV-1 program currently supports more than 900 jobs, including employees, suppliers, retailers and service personnel in the U.S. The quality controls implemented at the Mishawaka facility where the United Auto Workers (UAW) build the vehicle are outstanding and ensure a dependable and consistent workforce. Currently, the MV-1 is distributed through 150 points of distribution throughout the United States.

Therefore, we request that you proceed promptly with rescinding the "Buy America" waiver and appreciate your consideration of VPG's request.

Sincerely,

  
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Joe Donnelly  
Member of Congress

  
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Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress