

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Gary Peters  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Portman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Peters and Ranking Member Portman:

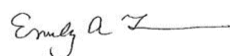
The American Society of Civil Engineers strongly supports S. 3510, the Disaster Resiliency Planning Act and urges swift passage of this legislation that requires federal agencies to incorporate resilience into decisions when prioritizing investments across their portfolios. If agencies are required to integrate assessments of natural disaster risk information, including vulnerability assessments into decision making, they can more readily choose resilient investments that will provide the greatest long-term value to agencies in meeting their missions.

ASCE believes that it is critical that federal agencies prioritize policies that increase resilience of infrastructure against man-made and natural hazards. Development of performance criteria and uniform national standards that address interdependencies and establish minimum performance goals for infrastructure is imperative. Furthermore, an all-hazard, comprehensive risk assessment that considers event likelihood and consequences, encourages mitigation strategies, monitors outcomes, and addresses recovery and return to service should be routinely included in the planning/design process for infrastructure at all government levels.

ASCE's [2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure](#) rated the overall condition of the nation's infrastructure a cumulative grade of "C-" across 17 categories. Among the recommended solutions is an increased emphasis on resilience, including the understanding that our infrastructure is a system of systems and requires a dynamic, "big picture" perspective that weighs tradeoffs across infrastructure sectors. We also believe that by prioritizing projects that improve the safety and security of systems and communities we can ensure continued reliability and enhanced resilience.

We thank the Senate Homeland Security Committee for prioritizing resilience and urge the swift passage of S. 3510. ASCE stands ready to work with the Senate as it continues to ensure that resilience is central to all future infrastructure investments.

Sincerely,



Emily Feenstra  
Chief Policy and External Affairs Officer  
American Society of Civil Engineers