

February 1, 2012

Chairman John Mica  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Nick Rahall  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Mica and Ranking Member Rahall:

The American Society of Civil Engineers supports passage of the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012 (H.R. 7) by the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. We are pleased to see many of the transportation policy reforms included in the legislation, especially the commitment to reforming the Department of Transportation, and streamlining project approval and delivery.

The nation's highway and transit network is facing an ever growing amount of challenges. ASCE's 2009 *Report Card for America's Infrastructure* graded Roads at a "D-", Transit at a "D", and Bridges at a "C". Additionally, ASCE estimates that it will require a five year investment of \$1.2 trillion to bring just these three transportation categories up to an acceptable condition. Therefore, it is critical for Congress to pass legislation that reauthorizes surface transportation programs, which has the ability to create hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs.

The reforms included in the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act allow for the nation's surface transportation program to move forward. Consolidating nearly 70 duplicative programs, expediting project delivery, creating reasonable performance measures and enhancing the TIFIA program, are all steps that will allow for a stronger, more results orientated, surface transportation program. Additionally, ASCE is pleased to see that the legislation will restore trust to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund by calling for expenditures to be tied to revenues and spent for harbor maintenance. These reforms, and the fact that House leadership has ensured that transportation programs will not see a dramatic cut in funding levels during a time of economic hardship, sends a positive message that investing in the nation's infrastructure is critical.

H.R. 7 will allow the nation's surface transportation programs to create jobs, grow our economy and enhance our global competitiveness. ASCE supports the Committee's efforts in passing a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill and looks forward to working with members of the Committee to see the bill through to final passage.

Sincerely,



Andrew Herrmann, P.E., F.ASCE  
President