

January 22, 2010

Washington Office  
101 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Suite 375 East  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 789-7850  
Fax: (202) 789-7859  
Web: <http://www.asce.org>

Dear Congressman:

On behalf of the 144,000 members of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the members in your district, we would like to thank you for the strong leadership you have displayed by voting in favor of H.R. 2847, the “Jobs for Main Street” Act. The legislation makes important investments in the nation’s crumbling infrastructure, while creating opportunities for job growth in the nation’s struggling construction industry. Unemployment rates in the construction industry are hovering around 19%, while the engineering/architecture unemployment rate has nearly doubled in the last year according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

However, while the progress made under the ARRA has been crucial for the industry, the \$48 billion that would be provided for infrastructure in the “Jobs for Main Street” Act will continue to combat unemployment rates and enable states to make long term investments in their transportation infrastructure. ASCE stands by the House-passed version of the “Jobs for Main Street” Act and is pleased that Congress has the foresight to employ Americans while rebuilding our nation’s crumbling infrastructure.

ASCE’s 2009 *Report Card for America’s Infrastructure* gave the nation’s infrastructure a cumulative “D” grade and estimated that \$2.2 trillion is required over the next five years to bring the nation’s infrastructure up to a good condition. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided a down payment toward our nation’s transportation investment, a sector that is currently suffering due to the stalemate over a new multi-year surface transportation authorization. The Recovery Act increased overall investment in highway, bridge, and transit projects by 12% through November 2009 and has helped to stabilize the American construction industry. The bill created hundreds of thousands of jobs both directly and indirectly and allowed tens of thousands of other Americans to hold onto jobs that would have disappeared without the bill.

Thank you again for your support of the Jobs for Main Street Act and we look forward to seeing the results of this necessary legislation in the upcoming months.

Sincerely,



Brian T. Pallasch, Managing Director Government Relations and Infrastructure Initiatives