



American Society of Civil Engineers

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February 11, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader Boeher, and Minority Leader McConnell:

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) commends Congress for moving rapidly to address the growing economic crisis that faces our nation. We believe that **H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**, starts the process of reinvesting in America's aging infrastructure and jump starting the nation's economy. However, it must be noted, that the investments made by the bill are only a small down payment on the investment gap.

In January, ASCE released its *2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure*, which gave a grade of D to 15 separate infrastructure categories. The *Report Card*, which is located at <http://www.asce.org/reportcard>, concluded that the nation faces an infrastructure investment "gap" of more than \$1 trillion over the next five years.

Specifically, ASCE supports:

Infrastructure

- House provision on funding for the Airport Improvement Program (\$3 billion).
- House provision on funding for the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) programs (\$8.4 billion).
- House provisions on Superfund and the leaking underground storage tank programs (\$1.1 billion).
- House provision on funding for national parks improvements (\$1.7 billion).
- House provision on highway funding (\$30 billion).
- House provision on school construction funding (\$14 billion).
- House provision on public transit funding (\$12 billion).
- Senate provision on discretionary transportation grants (\$5.5 billion).

- Senate provision on intercity rail and Amtrak infrastructure (\$3.1 billion).
- Senate provision on funding for the Bureau of Reclamation (\$1.4 billion) and funding for the Natural Resources Conservation Service small watershed dam rehabilitation (\$65 million).
- Finally, we are concerned with the amounts proposed in the House and Senate bills on funding for the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** civil works program. We recommend a total of **\$9 billion in stimulus funds for the Corps** to address a portion of the \$61 billion backlog of construction projects.

Science

The nation's infrastructure is the only concern addressed in this legislation. The nation's science enterprise has been seriously underfunded in recent years. Science and engineering research is, like infrastructure, a foundation on which our economy grows. We ask that you support the strongest possible funding levels for science, engineering and technology programs that foster innovation, economic growth and sustainable job creation. Specifically, we ask you to support the **House funding levels for engineering, research and education provisions** including \$10 billion for science facilities, research, and instrumentation, including \$3 billion for National Science Foundation, \$300 million for National Institutes of Science and Technology; \$200 million for U.S. Geological Survey; and \$11 billion for research and development, pilot projects, and federal matching funds for the Smart Grid Investment Program at the Department of Energy.

Taxes

We also ask your support of Section 1541 of the House-passed version of the bill and urges you to include it in the final conference agreement. The 3% withholding provision requires that federal, state, and certain local governments withhold 3% from contracts and other payments. There is no equitable, practical, or cost-effective way to implement this new requirement. It would impose significant financial burdens on companies as well as on federal agencies and state and local governments.

Please contact Brian Pallasch, Managing Director of Government Relations and Infrastructure Initiatives, at 202-789-7842 or at bpallasch@asce.org if you require further information.

Sincerely yours,



D. Wayne Klotz, P.E., D.WRE
President