

May 5, 2022

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The Honorable Matt Cartwright, Chairman  
The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-130 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cartwright and Ranking Member Aderholt,

As you draft the FY 2023 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)<sup>1</sup> requests a strong commitment to our science and research needs by investing in key programs. Additionally, as Congress works to complete work on the pending America COMPETES Act, it is imperative that Congress appropriate the necessary funds to conduct the critical objectives set out in the legislation. Specifically, ASCE requests:

- **National Science Foundation** (NSF) funds basic research across all disciplines of science and engineering, including innovative new materials, technologies, and processes to modernize and extend the life of infrastructure. ASCE requests at least \$11 billion in FY23. Included in this is \$54 million for the NSF functions of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) and \$9.7 million for the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP).
- **National Institute of Standards and Technology** (NIST) is the premier, and in most cases, the key federal institution conducting resilience research. ASCE requests \$1.4 billion in FY23. This includes \$9.7 million for NIST functions within NEHRP and \$4.1 million for NWIRP.

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. The recently enacted Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will go a long way toward raising the grades. However, it should be coupled with a significant investment in research and development that will permit the development of new and innovative materials and

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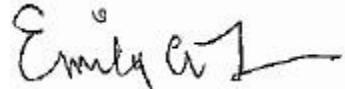
<sup>1</sup> ASCE was founded in 1852 and is the country's oldest national civil engineering organization. It represents more than 150,000 civil engineers individually in private practice, government, industry, and academia who are dedicated to the advancement of the science and profession of civil engineering. ASCE is a non-profit educational and professional society organized under Part 1.501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org),

processes to cut cost and facilitate a durable, secure, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure that will meet future needs and ensure the best possible infrastructure for the 21st century.

The U.S. research enterprise has been tremendously successful over the decades. This success has been guided by the scientific and engineering communities through a strong system of merit review and advisory committees, trust, and respect. ASCE supports efforts to enhance and revitalize these efforts.

Simply put, we need to invest NSF funds for basic research across all disciplines of science and engineering, including innovative new materials, technologies, and processes. Meanwhile, ASCE supports NIST and its mission of promoting U.S. innovation and competitiveness by anticipating and meeting the needs of the U.S. building and fire safety industries for measurement science, standards, and technology. We thank you for your consideration of our funding requests and look forward to working with the Committee to fund these existing successful federal infrastructure programs.

Sincerely,



Emily A. Feenstra  
Managing Director, Government Relations and Infrastructure Initiatives

cc: Chairwoman Nita Lowey and Ranking Member Granger, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Appropriations