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October 27, 2021

The Honorable Cory Booker  
U.S. Senate  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
U.S. Senate  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Booker and Wicker:

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) applauds your leadership in introducing S. 3053, the Providing Research and Estimates of Changes in Precipitation (PRECIP) Act. This legislation, which would require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to update precipitation frequency estimates every five years, not only provides needed resources to help NOAA produce more accurate data, but serves to strengthen the nation's infrastructure so that it can withstand the increasingly severe effects of climate change.

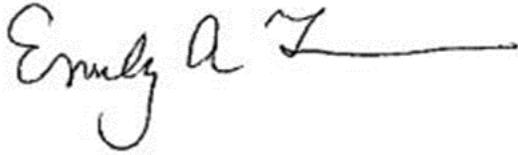
Civil engineers require the most current data available in designing the nation's critical infrastructure in order to ensure its durability, reliability, and safety. Increasingly heavy rains and less predictable weather patterns pose significant challenges to our nation's infrastructure, particularly elements such as dams, levees, and wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. It is essential that accurate and frequent data is available and adequately accounts for these changing conditions. U.S. disaster losses from wind, floods, earthquakes, and fires now average \$100 billion per year, and disproportionately impact low-income communities. Having accurate rainfall data is a common-sense, cost effective way to help ensure our nation's infrastructure is designed to be resilient to flooding and reduce these impacts from weather disasters.

The PRECIP Act would strengthen essential tools for the civil engineering community by identifying best practices for data collection, requiring more frequent precipitation frequency estimates, and accounting for changes to precipitation caused by climate change. This will help ensure engineers have access to more accurate data, and help make the nation's infrastructure more climate resilient, and thus safer and more reliable.

ASCE supports the goal of improving data collection methods, and mitigating and adapting to the threats posed by climate change. The PRECIP Act is a practical and effective way to make sure policy makers, state and local officials, and civil engineers have access to the best possible

information and are able to incorporate that information into designing infrastructure for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. ASCE thanks you for your leadership and introduction of this bipartisan legislation and is proud to endorse it. We welcome the opportunity to work with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily A. Feenstra". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Emily Feenstra  
Managing Director, Government Relations & Infrastructure Initiatives