July 26, 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chair
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas,

I am writing on behalf of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)\(^1\) to express our thanks for your leadership in efforts to advance the nation's research enterprise. Specifically, ASCE would also like to express our support for legislation being considered on July 27\(^{th}\) before the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, including H.R. 4609 the National Institute of Standards and Technology for the Future Act, H.R. 3858 the National Science and Technology Strategy Act, H.R. 4588 the Regional Innovation Act of 2021, and H.R. 4606 the Energizing Technology Transfer Act. These measures, along with those already approved by the Committee, would provide a much-needed boost to the nation's research and development enterprise.

ASCE applauds the bipartisan nature of the Committee’s work and urges members of the Science Committee and the House to work with the Senate to enact legislation to strengthen our nation’s research enterprise. ASCE believe that a continued strong commitment to our science and research needs will facilitate durable, secure, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure systems that will meet the needs of the 21st century and protect the public health, safety, welfare, and the environment.

\(^1\) 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).
ASCE is especially pleased with efforts to renew and enhance the work and capabilities of the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST). NIST is the premier, and in most cases, the only federal institution conducting resilience research focused on the impact of multiple hazards on buildings and communities and on post-disaster studies that can provide the technical basis for improved standards, codes, and practices used in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure systems. NIST’s support for the standards setting efforts of organizations such as ASCE and others is critical. The most reliable way to ensure our nation’s infrastructure is resilient is the widespread adoption and enforcement of modern, up to date building codes which in turn rely on constantly updated standards.

ASCE once again thanks the Committee for its leadership and its recognition of the critical role research and development plays in the nation’s prosperity and national well-being. We urge you to use these measures, along with others such as the National Science Foundation for the Future and Department of Energy Science for the Future Acts, to move forward to increase the investment in research and development.

If you need more information or ASCE can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Martin Hight, ASCE’s Senior Manager for Government Relations at mhight@asce.org or 202-789-7843.

Sincerely,

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