WHO WE ARE:
ASCE was founded in 1852 and is the country's oldest national civil engineering organization. It represents civil engineers in private practice, government, industry, and academia who are dedicated to the advancement of the science and profession of civil engineering. ASCE is committed to improving the nation's infrastructure to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Daily, ASCE members are on the front-line of dealing with America's infrastructure crisis and know the benefits of making the needed improvements.

It is critical that, if we are to achieve sustainable, resilient communities, and true economic recovery, the federal government must provide leadership.

Why Infrastructure Investment Matters:
Earlier this year, ASCE released an update to our economic study series, Failure to Act.

FAILURE TO ACT
Economic Impacts of Status Quo Investment Across Infrastructure Systems

OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS, AMERICA'S OVERDUE INFRASTRUCTURE BILL WILL COST THE AVERAGE AMERICAN HOUSEHOLD

$3,300 PER YEAR

When we fail to invest in our infrastructure, we pay the price. Poor roads and airports mean delayed times, higher prices, and reliability issues. Inefficient infrastructure increases costs for businesses, homeowners, and everyone who uses it. These higher costs are passed on to workers and families.

The average AMERICAN HOUSEHOLD GROWS & MEETS ITS NEEDS THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE. Without this, you can expect to lose $3,300 per year, or $66,000 over the course of a career.

We are already paying the price, but IF WE FAIL TO ACT NOW, OUR COSTS WILL MOUNT EXponentially.

If the total economic impacts projected in our 20-year study materialize, more than three-quarters of the damage caused would have occurred during the second decade (2020-2039).

If we don’t act, by 2039 we are forecasted to lose:

$10.3 TRILLION less in economic output
$2.4 TRILLION less in manufacturing
3 MILLION less in jobs per year
47% of the projected jobs lost in 2039 will be in high wage and high productivity jobs like manufacturing and healthcare.

The good news is we can act now to mitigate the harm to our GDP, trade volumes, and declines in personal income. Let’s reverse the decade of underinvestment into infrastructure and help end overinvestment there.

Infrastructure in the 117th Congress:
ASCE urges the 117th Congress to work to prioritize our nation’s infrastructure by developing legislation that not only makes critical investments, but creates jobs, protects public safety, and acts as an economic recovery tool. It is critical that, if we are to achieve sustainable, resilient communities, and true economic recovery, the federal government must provide leadership. Specifically, we as a Nation, must commit to:

PREPARING FOR A SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT FUTURE

ASCE supports federal initiatives that increase resilience of infrastructure against man-made and natural hazards. This is best achieved through the development, adoption, and enforcement of strong and up-to-date building codes. ASCE’s Standards, such as ASCE-7, provide technical guidelines for promoting safety, reliability, and resiliency in the built environment and are an integral part of U.S. building codes.

PURSUITING ASSET MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (O&M) NEEDS

ASCE supports prioritizing investments that increase safety and resilience, as well as focusing on state of good repair and the operations and maintenance of the current systems. The use of performance-based management of infrastructure, which encourages the use of sustainable engineering practices and life-cycle performance, will be critical to the long-term use of our infrastructure systems.

RESTORING A STRONG FEDERAL PARTNER IN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

ASCE supports prioritizing those aspects of our infrastructure most in need of repair, replacement, and modernization, to sustain our economy, public health, and safety. The first step should be to address major infrastructure priorities at the federal level: fixing the Highway Trust Fund, increasing the cap on the Passenger Facility Charge to modernize our nation’s airports, increase funding for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds, and provide adequate funding for our nation’s dams and levees.

On March 3, ASCE will release the 2021 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure. The 2021 Report Card will provide a comprehensive assessment of the nation’s infrastructure across 17 sectors and provide policy recommendations for raising the grades.

WWW.STRUCTUREREPORTCARD.ORG