

June 29, 2020

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The American Society of Civil Engineers supports H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, and urges swift passage of this legislation that makes vital investments in our nation's infrastructure. ASCE is encouraged that the Moving Forward Act takes a comprehensive approach to investing in our nation's infrastructure, looking beyond just roads and bridges to include the ports, rail networks, inland waterways and airports that drive our economy; the drinking water and wastewater systems that keep American's safe; and the schools and parks that the nation's children rely on.

Our nation's infrastructure was facing a daunting maintenance crisis, represented by an investment gap of \$2 trillion over ten years, prior to the current pandemic. Most recently, ASCE's [2017 Infrastructure Report Card](#) rated the overall condition of the nation's infrastructure a cumulative grade of "D+," but as our infrastructure continues to age, and investments do not keep pace with needs, the gap between identified investments and the public commitments to meet those needs only widens every year. The problem has been exacerbated by the growing revenue shortfalls that have resulted from the COVID-19 crisis, resulting in potentially dire consequences for our nation's already deteriorating infrastructure. America needs reliable, modern, and resilient infrastructure to rebuild our economy, put people back to work, and ensure all of us have access to healthy communities. H.R. 2 is a first step toward making these investments a priority.

ASCE has strongly advocated for many of the provisions in the Moving Forward Act and our [most recent report](#) detailing COVID-19's impacts to the nation's infrastructure makes several recommendations that are addressed in the bill. These recommendations include providing additional funding for the Airport Improvement Program, reauthorizing surface transportation programs, providing economic relief for water utilities, investing in the nation's schools, promoting resiliency through the creation of the Resilience Revolving Loan Fund, reinstating vital financing tools, further unlocking the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, and connecting new sources of renewable energy to the electric grid. Additionally, ASCE is also pleased to see that the bill encourages the use of life cycle cost analysis and innovative project delivery for transportation systems, both critical tools for determining cost-effective and efficient methods for improving the nation's infrastructure.

Finally, ASCE urges Congress to work together to address the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund. While the Moving Forward Act would make significant investments in the nation's infrastructure without increasing revenue, in order to maintain and modernize the infrastructure systems that make up the backbone of the U.S. economy, Congress must ensure long-term, sustainable funding mechanisms are in place.

Thank you for prioritizing modern, resilient infrastructure as part of America's recovery, and we look forward to working with Congress to get our economy moving again. We urge the House of Representatives to swiftly pass the Moving Forward Act. Finally, we strongly urge you to work with your Senate colleagues to pass a final bi-partisan infrastructure package that reauthorizes surface transportation programs and ensures their long-term sustainability prior to the September 30th deadline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K.N. Gunalan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

K.N. Gunalan, Ph.D, P.E., D.GE, F.ASCE
ASCE President 2020