

August 30, 2018

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chairwoman  
The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Chairman  
The Honorable David Price, Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Collins, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Diaz-Balart, and Ranking Member Price:

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) would like to thank both the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, Urban Development, and Related Agencies for their continued commitment to investing in the needs of our transportation infrastructure. The Society is also thankful for the Senate's leadership and commitment to bipartisan passage of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill. Long term, sustainable funding for the maintenance and modernization of our transportation infrastructure system is vital to our nation's growth and economic competitiveness.

As the conference committee works through both versions of the legislation, ASCE urges committee members to work in a bipartisan manner to ensure key programs under THUD receive robust funding.

Specifically, we are pleased that both House and Senate FY19 THUD appropriations bills include full funding for core Highway and Transit programs included in the FAST Act as well as funding beyond the authorization level of Transit Capital Investment Grants (CIG). However, we urge the conference committee to adopt ASCE requests for strong commitment to our transportation infrastructure needs by investing in key programs at the following levels:

- \$4.35 billion for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP);
- \$8.50 cap for Passenger Facility Charge (PFC); and
- \$1.5 billion in BUILD (formerly TIGER) grants.

In ASCE's *2017 Infrastructure Report Card*, our nation's aviation infrastructure, bridges, rail, roads, and transit received grades of "D," "C+," "B," "D," and "D-," respectively. Between 2016 and 2025, the funding gap for our nation's airports and surface transportation will be \$42 billion and \$1.1 trillion, respectively. Continued lack of action across infrastructure sectors will cost our nation \$3.9 trillion in GDP and 2.5 million jobs in 2025. Today, underinvestment in our infrastructure already costs the average American family \$3,400 per year, or \$9 a day.

Simply put, we need to invest in key programs that enhance the infrastructure of our aviation system and multimodal transportation, including transit network.

ASCE believes our nation must prioritize the investment needs of infrastructure to ensure public safety, a strong economy, and the protection of our environmental resources. Strategic, robust, and sustained investments, through long-term, reliable federal funding, as well as through the utilization of alternative financing mechanisms, must be made quickly if we hope to close the growing funding gap and restore America's world-class infrastructure. We thank you for your consideration of our funding requests and look forward to working with the conference committee to fund these existing successful federal infrastructure programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristina Swallow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kristina" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Swallow".

Kristina L. Swallow, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE  
2018 President

cc:

Chairman Richard Shelby and Ranking Member Patrick Leahy, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Nita Lowey, U.S. House Committee on  
Appropriations