

June 10, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senate
Room S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
Room S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Room H-305, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Room H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Tom Carper
U.S. Senate
Committee on Environment & Public Works
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate
Committee on Environment & Public Works
172 Russel Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Peter A. DeFazio
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Sam Graves
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairs Carper and DeFazio, and Ranking Members Capito and Graves:

The U.S. industrial metals sector represents hundreds of companies with more than 74,000 facilities across the country. These firms provide more than 1.86 million good paying jobs to employees who spend almost \$116 billion in total wages in your states. Our member companies produce, process, forge, fabricate, and ship industrial metals products around the world. You'll find their products in factories, machinery, houses, pipelines and wind turbines, hospitals, airports, schools, and even in our nation's fiber and broadband networks.

We ask that both parties in Congress come together with the Biden administration to support a metals-intensive infrastructure spending bill that makes historic investments, maintains a competitive tax structure, and reforms the federal regulatory regime to expedite building.

The situation is dire. [The American Society of Civil Engineers](#) 2021 report card gave U.S. infrastructure a C minus. The report found that, of the country's 617,000 bridges, 42 percent are at least 50 years old and 7.5 percent are structurally deficient. If infrastructure investment continues at its current limited pace, American families and businesses will suffer. In fact, without action, the average household stands to lose more than \$3,300 per year in disposable income through 2039 due to higher costs and lost time and productivity.

[The Business Roundtable](#) estimates that every \$1 in new infrastructure investment will create \$3.82 in economic growth over 20 years and add about a dollar and half to the average hourly U.S. wage. By investing in infrastructure, we can enhance incomes and improve safety and daily life for all Americans.

A thriving industrial metals sector is essential to the American economy. But, as you know, global steel and aluminum overcapacity – specifically in China – and unfair trading practices have severely damaged the U.S. manufacturing sector and hurt companies that employ thousands of Americans. While we ask that this legislation provide as much federal support as possible, we also ask that it:

- **Prioritize Core Infrastructure.** This legislation should invest in the *physical* infrastructure that American businesses and families use in their daily lives. These projects need not be “shovel-ready.” We need to do more than just repave roads. We need to build them – along with bridges, airports, water and wastewater treatment facilities, and a modern electricity grid.
- **Ensure We Can Build Now.** This legislation also should call for a White House-led, interagency task force that will recommend reforms that expedite approvals for this infrastructure. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven that, when faced with a crisis, government agencies can work together quickly to facilitate innovation. Federal officials must apply the lessons they learned during the vaccine development process to our infrastructure crisis.

Infrastructure always has been a bipartisan issue. A deal that creates good-paying manufacturing and construction jobs and fuels long-term economic growth is achievable. We urge you to fast track passage of those matters on which there already is agreement between Republicans and Democrats. That means investing in the physical, metals-intensive infrastructure that U.S. businesses and families need to thrive.

We are prepared to work with you, your committees, and staff to achieve this result.

Respectfully,

Tom Dobbins
President and CEO
[Aluminum Association](#)

Kevin Dempsey
President and CEO
[American Iron and Steel Institute](#)

Kimberly A. Korbel
Executive Director
[American Wire Producers Association](#)

Ed Youdell
President and CEO
[Fabricators & Manufacturers Association, Intl.](#)

James R. Warren
President and CEO
[Forging Industry Association](#)

M. Robert Weidner, III
President and CEO
[Metals Service Center Institute](#)

Philip K. Bell
President
[Steel Manufacturers Association](#)