



July 29, 2019

LINDA BAUER DARR
PRESIDENT & CEO

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Committee on Environment & Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment & Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

The American Council of Engineering Companies – the voice of the nation’s engineering industry – strongly supports the committee’s efforts to pass a timely reauthorization of federal transportation programs. *America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act* provides critical resources necessary to upgrade our roads and bridges to address years of deferred maintenance and modernize our transportation networks. The programs in the bill will equip our public sector partners to accommodate growth in population and freight movement, incorporate new technologies, improve safety, and enhance resilience and sustainability.

A stable, long-term federal highway program is essential to economic growth and public safety. State departments of transportation and local transportation agencies rely on consistent, multi-year funding commitments to plan and implement vital improvement projects. Without reliable, dedicated federal funding, they can only undertake the most basic maintenance and short-term fixes and cannot effectively implement a long-range improvement plan that will bring existing facilities to a state of good repair and modernize our transportation networks for the 21st century. We applaud the committee for advancing a bill that will ensure five years of stable federal funding and growth in core infrastructure programs.

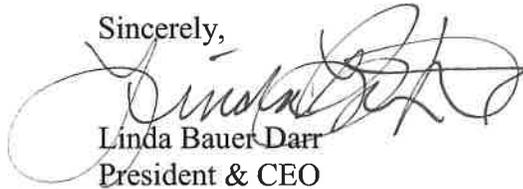
In addition to the robust funding increases, ACEC appreciates the inclusion of provisions in the bill to facilitate more efficient project delivery, including the codification of the One Federal Decision policy. Our firms are engaged across the country in conducting environmental reviews, advising on mitigation measures, and helping public agencies navigate other federal and state regulatory requirements. The provisions in your bill, combined with continued implementation of the reforms included in MAP-21 and the FAST Act, will allow project sponsors to avoid unnecessary delays while still ensuring robust environmental protections and public involvement.

ACEC also supports the measures in the bill to promote a more resilient transportation system. America’s engineering industry is helping our clients confront the challenges of a changing climate, working with public and private sector partners to reduce their carbon footprint and adapt to the effects of sea level rise and extreme weather events. Partnering with our firms, transportation agencies are tasked with responding to and recovering from hazards such as

floods, hurricanes, landslides, and wildfires that threaten human lives and disrupt critical services across communities and states. Your surface transportation reauthorization bill provides the resources necessary to improve resiliency and durability so that structures can better resist damage, infrastructure can be assessed more accurately following a disaster, and systems can return to service more quickly.

U.S. engineering firms are innovative problem solvers, and the funding and programs in your bill will unlock their potential to modernize our highway and bridge networks. We strongly support committee passage, and we look forward to working with your colleagues on other committees of jurisdiction to advance a full surface transportation bill through the Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Bauer Darr", written in a cursive style.

Linda Bauer Darr
President & CEO