



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**



SSINA
Specialty Steel Industry
of North America



July 20, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators McConnell and Schumer:

Since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, millions of American families have suffered tremendous losses as our nation battles this global pandemic. We recognize the commitment and resources provided by the federal and state governments to stop the spread and protect the health, safety and economic security of our citizens during these very uncertain times. Many of the nation's leading manufacturers have operated as essential businesses and contributed to our national economy. However, despite our best intentions, we know that it will be imperative for Congress to support and implement policies that steer the nation toward a robust economic recovery. The steel industry, its employees, and the communities we are proud to serve ask for your support.

On behalf of the U.S. member companies of the five undersigned steel industry associations and the nearly two million U.S. workers directly or indirectly dependent on our industry, we write today to urge Congress to include an immediate infusion of at least \$37 billion to state departments of transportation (DOTs) to offset what the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) estimates "will average at least a 30 percent loss in state transportation revenues in the next 18 months." This timely and essential investment will provide short-term certainty for essential projects and allow state DOTs to continue planning and bidding work.

As a result of economic hardships in most states, DOTs have been forced to delay or cancel key infrastructure projects because of these revenue shortfalls, resulting in decreased demand for steel products. To ensure that these projects can proceed and create demand for essential products used in the transportation sector, the steel industry requests Congress include at least \$37 billion for state DOTs in the future relief bill that will be considered by Congress this month.

Ensuring that state DOTs have appropriate funding to carry out essential projects is an important first step in our nation's economic recovery. As Congress prepares to consider a more comprehensive and long-term infrastructure bill, we urge the Senate to pass an infrastructure package in the next phase of COVID-19 stimulus legislation. American businesses will not likely feel the full economic impact of COVID-19 until later this year, as social distancing and shelter-in-place measures undoubtedly save lives but continue to slow economic activity in the manufacturing and construction sectors. While the recent \$2 trillion stimulus package

addresses the immediate crisis, we believe that a forward-looking, robustly funded and long-term infrastructure package will create a path forward for jobs and growth as our nation recovers. Making a long-term and robust infrastructure investment now will not only respond to the urgent transportation system needs that are well known, but it also will create high paying jobs allowing businesses and families to recover from this extremely difficult economic shock. As past infrastructure bills have shown, the benefits from such a bill will flow throughout the economy. We can put more Americans to work, improve quality of life in our cities, towns and rural areas and drive commerce and medical supplies across our nation by making infrastructure investment a critical component of the next stimulus package by including Buy America provisions and using domestically produced and fabricated steel.

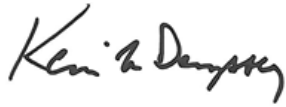
The state of our infrastructure is well documented. According to the Federal Highway Administration's National Bridge Inventory, 38 percent of America's 616,000 bridges are in need of replacement or rehabilitation. With such a staggering backlog of substandard bridges, there is significant opportunity to put Americans back to work and back on the road to economic recovery.

The infrastructure supply chain for steel products used in highway and bridge construction starts with American steel producers, who have revolutionized the industry by developing clean and efficient steelmaking processes at mills located strategically throughout the country. Steel is sold directly or through national distributors to construction companies and to approximately 1,000 American steel fabricators who have built plants—and created jobs—in virtually every congressional district in America. These companies fabricate and install the structural steel that make up America's great steel bridges, airports, government buildings, transportation centers and other critical infrastructure projects.

Through a collaborative effort, the undersigned organizations, led by the American Institute of Steel Construction, have compiled an interactive map (<https://www.aisc.org/nsba/transportation/>) showing the nearly 600 steel industry organizations responsible for building this nation's infrastructure.

Through this supply chain, the steel industry employs millions of people directly with good-paying jobs, and initiates multiplier employment effects throughout the construction, manufacturing, engineering, research and many other sectors of the American economy. Indeed, research conducted by John Dunham & Associates on behalf of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) shows that the American iron and steel industry accounted for more than \$520 billion in economic output and nearly two million jobs in 2017. These workers earned over \$130 billion in wages and benefits, while the industry generated \$56 billion in federal, state and local taxes. As you consider how best to provide immediate assistance to families and businesses harmed by COVID-19, we strongly urge you to consider including long-term infrastructure investment provisions that provide a path for a robust and resounding recovery plan for our nation's workers and their families.

Sincerely,



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