



February 15, 2021

Dear Washington State Congressional Member,

We write to urge our Congressional delegation to pass a balanced national infrastructure package that brings much needed investments to Washington state.

The state's city, county, ports, and business associations partnered to produce a report that outlines more than \$222 billion in infrastructure needs throughout the state including highways, bridges, freight rail, ports, airports, rural broadband, and energy. The report, "Building the Economy: Infrastructure Needs in Washington," highlights the need to invest in Washington's core infrastructure in ways that are environmentally responsible and reaffirms the benefits that will come as a result.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted Washington state's economy, we view investments in infrastructure as a very important step toward recovery. Infrastructure investments in transportation, energy, water, and rural broadband stimulate the economy by creating jobs, increasing technology and programs to underserved populations, improving the environment, increasing resiliency, and improving mobility for additional economic activity to develop. The report found that making these critically needed investments will create an estimated 706,000-777,000 direct and indirect jobs throughout the state. Strong infrastructure benefits everyone. Employers, working families, and students rely on sound infrastructure to ensure swift access to their job sites, either physically or virtually.

Washington state contributes more than \$300 billion to the U.S. economy, making the state's infrastructure vital to the national interests, and yet the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the state's infrastructure an overall grade of "C." Investing in infrastructure goes a long way towards the state's economic recovery and maintaining safe and efficient channels for goods and services in our state that leads the country in trade.

Our partnership highlights the important need for infrastructure. In 2015, we collectively supported the Connecting Washington package, which was a 16 year and 16 billion-dollar infrastructure plan. We recognize the correlation between infrastructure spending and economic development. There is a positive return on investment. We stand ready to draw on that experience and help move a federal plan across the finish line.

We look forward to working with you on key efforts towards new and updated infrastructure to keep the state's wheels of commerce turning.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Kris Johnson, written in a cursive style.

Kris Johnson
President & CEO
Association of Washington Business

A black ink signature of Peter King, written in a cursive style.

Peter King
CEO
Association of Washington Cities

A black ink signature of James Thompson, written in a cursive style.

James Thompson
Executive Director
Washington Public Ports Association

A black ink signature of Eric Johnson, written in a cursive style.

Eric Johnson
Executive Director
Washington State Association of Counties