

June 15, 2020

Vince Malta
2020 President

Bob Goldberg
Chief Executive Officer

ADVOCACY GROUP

William E. Malkasian
Chief Advocacy Officer / SVP

Shannon McGahn
SVP Government Affairs

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2134 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio,

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), I would like to thank the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for introducing the INVEST in America Act, an ambitious effort to address our nation's long-standing infrastructure challenges. As these problems persist, we strongly encourage your committee to move a long-term and well-funded surface transportation bill ahead of the September 30, 2020, reauthorization deadline. A failure to do so will result in expensive delays that make important projects more costly and difficult to complete.

Substantial multi-year investments in various infrastructure programs, including surface transportation, broadband and water infrastructure, are needed to expand our economy, compete globally and - especially in a post-coronavirus world - provide desperately needed jobs. NAR urges the Committee to advance meaningful investment in the structures and systems that link our communities, country and commerce, by including the following key priorities and principles:

- Significantly increase direct federal investments in infrastructure;
- Fix the chronic funding challenges and recurring shortages in key federal infrastructure accounts such as the Highway Trust Fund;
- Facilitate opportunities for private investment;
- Provide incentives to encourage high-density, transit-oriented development;
- Streamline the costly federal permitting process, while continuing to provide critical environmental protections;
- Encourage active participation among all levels of government and the private sector.

Because no single partner can deliver an effective national infrastructure network driven by a forward-looking strategy and funding stability, diverse voices will be needed to implement this important legislation. Failing to deliver an effective long-term infrastructure initiative will lead to delays in transportation and infrastructure improvements that could be felt for years to come.



NAR stands ready to support your efforts to rebuild the transportation and infrastructure systems that are so critical to the nation's economic health, and looks forward to working with you to deliver meaningful investments in the foundation that connects our nation's families and free enterprise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vince Malta", written in a cursive style.

Vince Malta
2020 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure