

February 23, 2021

Charlie Oppler
2021 President

Bob Goldberg
Chief Executive Officer

ADVOCACY GROUP

Shannon McGahn
Chief Advocacy Officer

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

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on
Environment and Public Works
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito

The National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), thanks you for beginning the process to move forward legislation to address our nation's long-standing infrastructure and transportation challenges. In a post-COVID-19 world, substantial and long-term investments in surface transportation, broadband, and water infrastructure are needed to expand our economy, compete globally and create jobs.

Given the current economic crisis brought on by the pandemic, investing in our infrastructure will encourage growth, increase economic opportunity and help the communities hit the hardest. Building resilient highways will help link neighborhoods to businesses and job centers and provide better access to clean water and affordable energy. Investments in telecommunications infrastructure will support virtual learning and drive entrepreneurial opportunities. Improving roads, bridges and the efficiency of the distribution of goods will reduce traffic congestion and associated carbon emissions.

NAR urges this Committee to advance meaningful investment in the structures and systems that link our communities, country, and commerce through the following key priorities and principles:

- Significantly increase direct federal investments in infrastructure;
- Fix the chronic funding challenges and reoccurring shortages in key federal infrastructure accounts such as the Highway Trust Fund;
- Facilitate opportunities for private capital investment;
- Provide incentives to encourage high-density, transit-oriented development;
- Streamline the costly federal permitting process while continuing to provide critical environmental protections;
- Provide resources for communities to make their transportation and infrastructure systems more resilient and sustainable;
- Provide resources for communities to develop systems to better manage, utilize and control their water, wastewater and drinking water resources; and
- Encourage active participation among all levels of government and the private sector.



Because no single partner can deliver a well-functioning, national U.S. infrastructure network guided by a long-term vision and funding stability, diverse voices will be needed to drive this legislation forward. Failing to deliver a long-term infrastructure initiative could lead to declines in our nation's transportation and infrastructure systems 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 "Charlie Oppler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charlie Oppler
2021 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works