

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 1, 2019

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

As you craft legislation to strengthen our nation's infrastructure, we respectfully request that you include investments in proven workforce development strategies, including career and technical education (CTE) and apprenticeships.

Rebuilding our nation's infrastructure will require more than just bridges, roads, and waterways; it will require the development of a skilled workforce that can design, build, and maintain that infrastructure. The Brookings Institution estimates that 3 million additional workers will be needed for the nation's infrastructure in the next decade, including designing, building and operating transportation, housing, utilities and telecommunications¹. On March 6, 2018, during a House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing on the President's infrastructure proposal, Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao testified, "we probably will not have enough skilled trades workers to be able to address all the infrastructure needs when it finally gets all going... So, the workforce training and retraining part is important."

Many jobs in infrastructure sectors do not require a bachelor's degree, but they do involve a significant amount of on-the-job training. CTE and apprenticeships are proven strategies that can provide individuals with the education and work-based learning they need for career success in these high-skill, high-wage industry sectors or occupations. By including these investments in a comprehensive infrastructure package, we will ensure that resources committed to our nation's infrastructure will be effective, building on established workforce development strategies to provide the skilled workers required to carry out the projects.

Congress recently recognized CTE as an effective workforce development strategy when it unanimously passed the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act* (reauthorizing the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act), which the President subsequently signed into law (Public Law No: 115-224). We must maintain this commitment moving forward. Therefore, we respectfully request that you include the following in any infrastructure legislation:

- A stipulation that states devote a portion of the infrastructure funds they receive to workforce development programs, including CTE programs, with the flexibility to invest in such programs

¹ Kane, Joseph and Adie Tomer. *Infrastructure skills: Knowledge, tools, and training to increase opportunity* (May 2016). Retrieved from: https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/metro_20160510_infrastructure_skills_report.pdf.

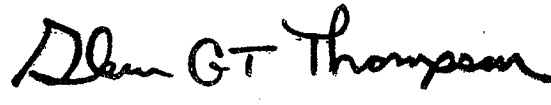
they deem appropriate for local infrastructure needs, and that they coordinate such investments with the agencies that receive the states' funds from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Carl D. Perkins CTE Act so as not to duplicate efforts;


- Incentives for infrastructure-related businesses that invest in work-based learning, including apprenticeship programs; and
- Dedicated resources for updating the facilities and equipment used in CTE programs of study in infrastructure sectors to ensure they are aligned with fast-paced, ever-changing industry expectations and standards.

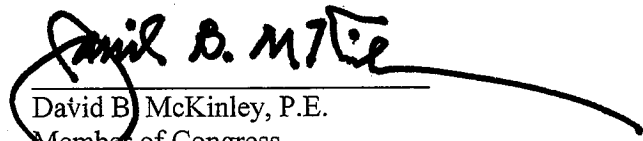
We appreciate your consideration of these requests and look forward to working with you to ensure these items are included in the nation-wide infrastructure package. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact Kerry McKittrick with Congressman Langevin or Nick Rockwell with Congressman Thompson.


Sincerely,

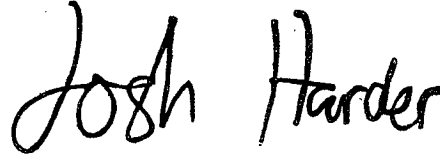

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

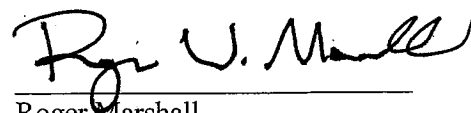

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

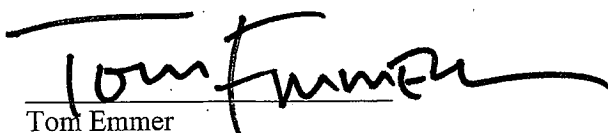

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

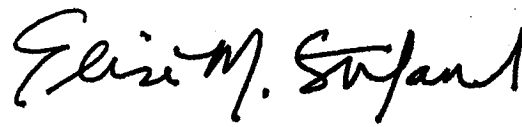

Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

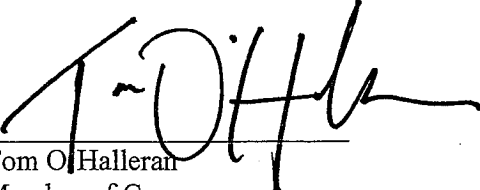

Josh Harder
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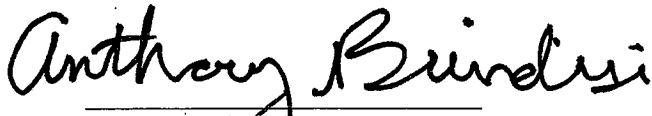

Thomas R. Suozzi
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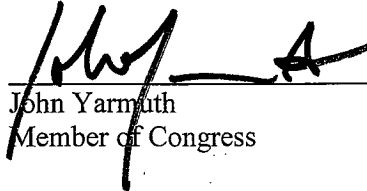

Roger Marshall
Member of Congress


Tom Emmer
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Elise Stefanik
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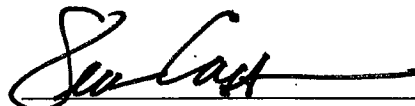

Tom O'Halleran
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Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress

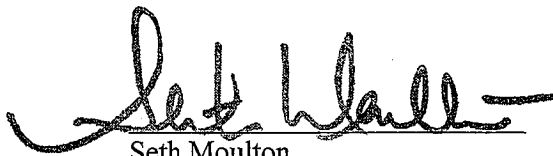

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

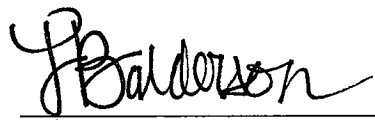

Mike Thompson
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Tom Malinowski
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Sean Casten
Member of Congress

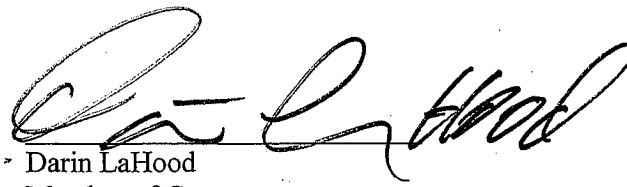

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

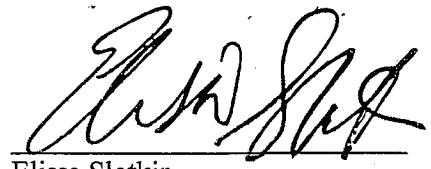

Troy Balderson
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Conor Lamb
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Anthony Brown
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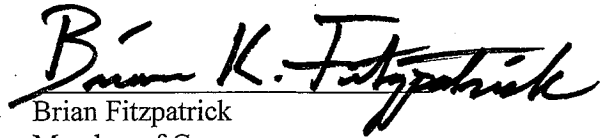

Darin LaHood
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Angie Craig
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Elissa Slotkin
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Lori Trahan
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Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



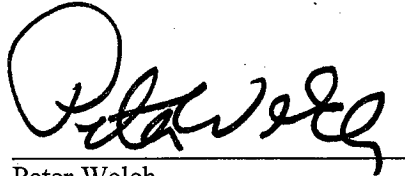
TJ Cox
Member of Congress



Rob Wittman
Member of Congress



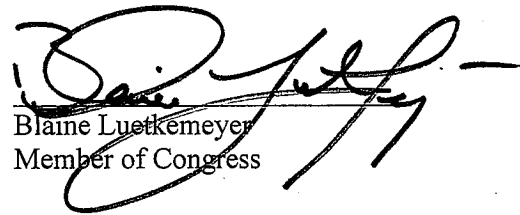
Rick Larsen
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Peter Welch
Member of Congress



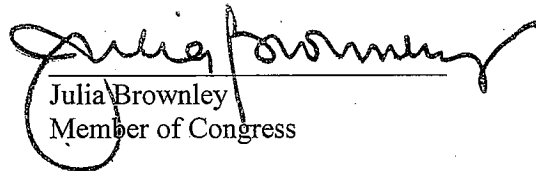
Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress



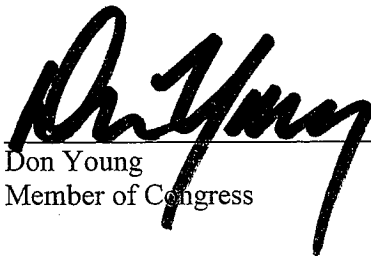
Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



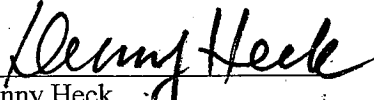
Pete Visclosky
Member of Congress



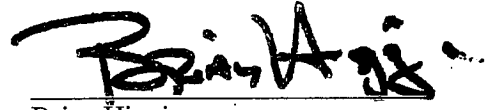
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



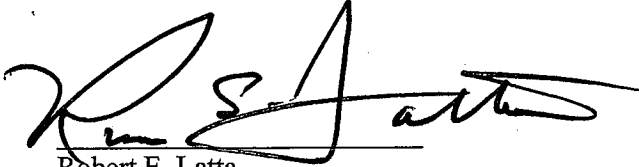
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
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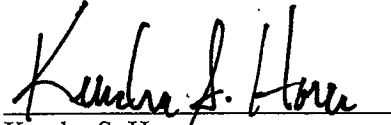
Denny Heck
Member of Congress



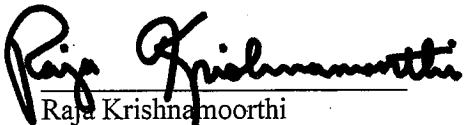
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



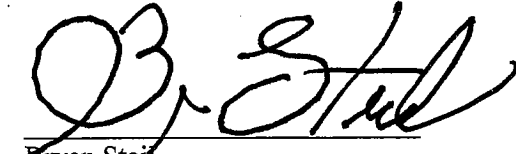
Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



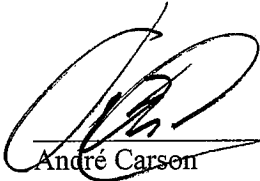
Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress



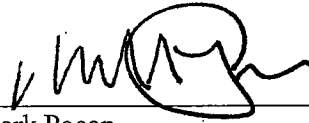
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



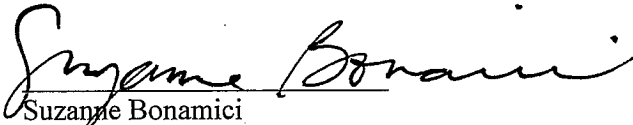
Bryan Steil
Member of Congress




André Carson
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



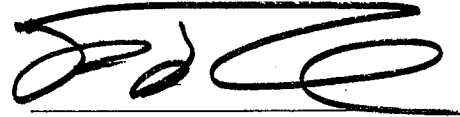
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



Cindy Axne
Member of Congress