

August 6, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell,

The undersigned members of the Agricultural Transportation Working Group (ATWG) urge strong support for H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

A comprehensive transportation infrastructure bill, while popular, has long been elusive. We urge enactment of this compromise between President Biden and a group of Senate Democrats and Republicans to increase infrastructure spending by \$550 billion over five years.

The farmers, ranchers, food and beverage manufacturers, processors, package suppliers, farm supply dealers, state departments of agriculture and agricultural product marketers that comprise our collective memberships support and sustain millions of American jobs, many in rural communities. Our members are dedicated to providing safe, abundant, affordable and sustainably produced human and animal food, fiber and agricultural products that benefit U.S. and global consumers.

Modernizing America's transportation infrastructure has long been a priority of the ATWG and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act would deliver on this priority by investing an additional \$110 billion in U.S. roads and bridges, \$65 billion for broadband, and \$17.3 billion for ports and inland waterways. In addition, this bipartisan agreement includes a number of provisions designed to boost the resiliency of the agricultural supply chain including investments in cybersecurity and programs to address the truck driver shortage.

These investments are necessary and, in many cases, overdue. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will enhance the efficient and cost-effective transport of agricultural and food products resulting in substantial contributions and opportunities for U.S. economic growth and trade.

Through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Congress and the Administration have the opportunity to boost the competitiveness of American agriculture. We are mindful that this specific legislation is the product of many months of bipartisan, deliberate negotiations. Therefore, we urge lawmakers to exercise caution during its consideration and oppose any amendments that could threaten to unravel this careful consensus. The ATWG urges strong support and enactment of this bipartisan agreement.

Sincerely,

Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference
Agricultural Retailers Association
American Bakers Association
American Beekeeping Federation
American Beverage Association

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Pulse Association
American Soybean Association
Corn Refiners Association
Farm Credit Council
International Dairy Foods Association
Leather and Hide Council of America
Meat Import Council of America
National Aquaculture Association
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Barley Growers Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Sunflower Association
North American Meat Institute
North American Renderers Association
Pet Food Institute
North American Millers' Association
Soy Transportation Coalition
United Dairymen of Arizona
United States Cattlemen's Association
USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council
USA Rice
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Pea and Lentil Trade Association
Waterways Council, Inc.
Western Growers

CC: United States Senators
President Joseph R. Biden