

February 22, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of our respective organizations, which collectively represent U.S. agricultural producers, rural businesses, rural communities, and rural families, we are writing to ask your support for rebuilding infrastructure in rural America.

We were very pleased to hear your comments about the importance of rebuilding U.S. infrastructure. Those of us in rural communities have seen our infrastructure deteriorate, jeopardizing jobs, our agricultural competitiveness, and the health of rural families. Past infrastructure initiatives often focused on urban and suburban infrastructure while not adequately addressing the unique needs of rural communities. We ask that you address this as part of your administration's comprehensive infrastructure renewal efforts.

American agriculture truly feeds the world and creates millions of jobs for U.S. workers. Our nation's ability to produce food and fiber and transport it efficiently across the globe is a critical factor in U.S. competitiveness internationally. Infrastructure that supports rural communities and links them to global markets has helped make the U.S. the unquestioned leader in agricultural production. Our deteriorating infrastructure threatens that leadership position.

Transportation infrastructure improvement is the most obvious need in rural communities, but not the only one. Highways, bridges, railways, locks and dams, harbors and port facilities all need major investment if we are to continue efficiently getting our agricultural products to market. For example, one-quarter of our road system's bridges require significant repair, or cannot efficiently handle today's traffic and many of the 240 locks and dams along the inland waterways are in need of modernization. In addition, though, critical needs exist in providing clean water for rural families, expanding broadband to connect rural communities to the outside world, and enhancing the ability to supply affordable, reliable and secure power for the rural economy.

The scope of the investment needed is staggering. Clearly the federal government must continue to play an important role in providing funding and those federal investments should increase. However, federal resources, likely cannot fill the need entirely. Creative solutions that pair federal investment with state/local government investment and private sources of capital hold promise for raising a portion of the funds necessary to do the job.

As you take office and begin addressing the nation's infrastructure needs, we hope you will provide leadership to ensure that rural America's needs are addressed. We stand ready to work with you and your administration to begin this important initiative.

Respectfully,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture & Commodities Transportation Coalition
Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives

Alaska Power Association
Alliance for I-69 Texas
Almond Alliance of California
American Association of Crop Insurers
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Dairy Coalition
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Horse Council
American Sheep Industry Association
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
American Soybean Association
Arkansas Electric Cooperatives
Arkansas Soybean Association
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives
Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives
Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives
Bongards Premium Cheese
California Association of Winegrape Growers
Colorado Rural Electric Association
Cooperative Network
Corn Refiners Association
Crop Insurance Professionals Association
Empire State Potato Growers, Inc.
Empire State Water Well Drillers' Association
Equipment Dealers Association
Farm Credit Council
Farmer Mac
Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.
Federation of Southern Cooperatives Rural Training and Research Center
First District Association
Florida Electric Cooperatives Association
Georgia Electric Membership Corporation
Golden State Power Cooperative
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Great Plains Canola Association
I-14 / Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition
Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association
Idaho Grain Producers Association
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association
Illinois Soybean Association
Indiana Corn Growers Association
Indiana Electric Cooperatives
Indiana Soybean Alliance
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives
Iowa Soybean Association

Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Cooperative Council
Kansas Electric Cooperatives
Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Soybean Association
Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives
Kentucky Corn Growers Association
Kentucky Soybean Association
Louisiana Association of Cooperatives
Louisiana Ground Water Association
Maryland Grain Producers Association
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Bean Shippers
Michigan Electric Cooperative Association
Michigan Soybean Association
Midwest Shippers Association
Minnesota AgriGrowth Council
Minnesota Corn Growers Association
Minnesota Farmers Union
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
Minnesota Milk Producers Association
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Mississippi Association of Cooperatives
Mississippi Soybean Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Soybean Association
Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
Montana Grain Growers Association
National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Towns and Townships
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Black Growers Council
National Cooperative Business Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Family Farm Coalition
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Grange
National Ground Water Association
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Rural Economic Developers Association
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Rural Water Association

National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association
Nebraska Rural Electric Association
Nebraska Soybean Association
Nevada Rural Electric Association
New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association
New York Corn and Soybean Association
New York State Agribusiness Associations
New York State Vegetable Growers Association
North American Millers' Association
North Carolina Electric Cooperatives
North Carolina Ground Water Association
North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association
North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives
North Dakota Corn Growers Association
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance
Northeast Association of Electric Cooperatives
Northeast Cooperative Council
NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association
Ohio Agribusiness Association
Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers
Ohio Dairy Producers Association
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Ohio Pork Council
Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives
Ohio Soybean Association
Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers Association
Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council
Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives
Oklahoma Soybean Association
Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association
Oregon Potato Commission
Oregon Wheat Growers League
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association
Rural and Agriculture Council of America
Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural
Rural Development Leadership Network
SE Minnesota Grain and Feed Dealers
Select Milk Producers, Inc.
South Carolina Fertilizer and AgriChemical Association
South Carolina Peach Council
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives
South Dakota Corn Growers Association

South Dakota Rural Electric Association
South Dakota Soybean Association
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
Soy Transportation Coalition
State Agriculture and Rural Leaders
Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association
Tennessee Soybean Association
Texas Ag Industries Association
Texas Elective Cooperatives
Texas Grain and Feed Association
Texas Vegetation Management Association
The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Dry Bean Council
U.S. Forage Export Council
U.S. Poultry and Egg Association
United Egg Producers
United Fresh Produce Association
USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council
USA Rice
Utah Rural Electric Association
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Beef Industry Council
Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Virginia Cooperative Council
Virginia Farm Bureau
Virginia FFA Association
Virginia Horse Council
Virginia Poultry Federation
Virginia State Dairymen's Association
Virginia Telecommunications Industry Association
Virginia Water Well Association
Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Washington State Potato Commission
Water Systems Council
Water Well Trust
West Virginia Farm Bureau
West Virginia FFA and Agricultural Education
West Virginia Poultry Association
Western Peanut Growers Association
Wisconsin Agri-business Association
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
Wisconsin Soybean Association
Women Involved in Farm Economics
WTA - Advocates for Rural Broadband
Wyoming Rural Electric Association

CC: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Charles Schumer
The Honorable Paul Ryan
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi