

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2017

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to commend your efforts to invest in America's infrastructure. For too long, our nation's infrastructure needs have been neglected. We welcome your push to correct this situation. However, we believe a wide view in interpreting what entails infrastructure will yield the best results to restore America's greatness. Investments in foundational assets, such as drinking water systems, the national electric grid, or efficiency in homes and buildings, along with roads, our seaports and waterways, bridges, and rail investments, will pay dividends for generations to come.

Thank you for your visit to Ohio to highlight infrastructure needs. Given the challenges the region faces, infrastructure investments would bring positive impacts to these communities. For example, Toledo, Ohio experienced a water crisis in 2014, when toxins from an algal bloom in Lake Erie contaminated the municipal drinking water system leaving over 400,000 Americans without fresh water for three days. Despite millions of dollars in investments the City has made to protect against the annual threat of harmful algal blooms, additional improvements in drinking water systems are needed to better address the real threat. Nationally, the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that roughly 30 percent of all water is lost due to leaking underground pipes, some of which are 100 years old. In Ohio alone, over the next 20 years, aging systems will necessitate \$12.2 billion in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

Additionally, upgrading the electric grid should be a top infrastructure investment. The grid is one of the most important assets for national security given nearly every facet of our society depends on access to electricity. An infrastructure plan that ignores the energy grid is already out of date. Investments in grid hardening, cybersecurity protection, energy efficiency, and a move towards distributed generation and microgrids improve resiliency and secure our nation against the possibility of an attack. As part of the electric grid improvements, energy efficiency and weatherization are worthy investments. Reducing demand on the grid through efforts that allow citizens to upgrade their homes—whether through modern windows, improved seals of HVAC systems, robust insulation, or repaired roofing—will also reduce energy and lower bills while creating good-paying local jobs.

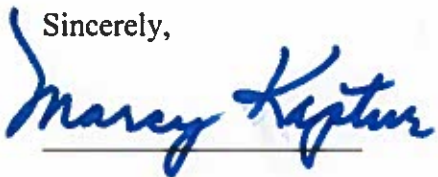
The Great Lakes/Midwest region has some of the nation's oldest infrastructure especially of its maritime infrastructure. The waterborne shipping industry, which contributes \$14 billion per year in economic activity and over 100,000 jobs to the Great Lakes, relies on well-functioning

locks and dams and properly dredged harbors to remain a viable interconnected transportation system for the manufacturing sector. The Saint-Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation connects the Great Lakes to the Atlantic and is in need of upgrades to meet the demands of modern shipping. Modernization of the Soo Locks is one of the most critical marine infrastructure projects to our region, which connect Lake Superior to the lower Great Lakes. The Soo Lock provides the commercial shipping industry a gateway to deliver iron ore and other raw materials that power the nation's steel industry. However, the current lock is 49-years old, and is in desperate need of repair and replacement. A study conducted by the Department of Homeland Security found that a closure of as little as six months of the 49-year old Poe Lock would send the United States' economy into a dire recession, halting almost all domestic steel production. We understand your Administration supports modernization of the Soo Locks and we support your proposal.

Finally, we would encourage your definition of infrastructure to include our outdoor space. There is a \$12 billion backlog at our National Parks; our National Forests are chronically underfunded with no way out of annual supplementals dedicated to fire fights instead of reforestation and management of the forest floor. It is a national embarrassment that among so many problems, the ceiling of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial is crumbling, the water service in the Grand Canyon is failing, and most parks suffer from insufficient funding to keep the bathrooms clean. Reviving our most spectacular places in nature and our sacred sites would truly make America great again.

Perhaps no opportunity better presents a chance to revitalize the domestic steel industry than an expansive infrastructure initiative. We must view an infrastructure bill as investments to ensure the free flow of people and commerce, but also as an opportunity to invest in our foundational economic sectors. We look forward to working with you to address all of these critical needs and to ensure that our infrastructure investments in this country are as worthy as its people.

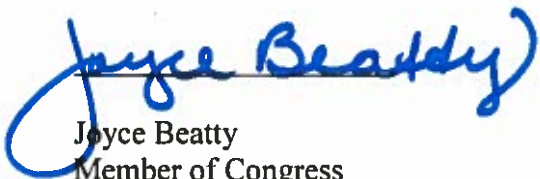
Sincerely,



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress