

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

March 6, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building

Dear Chairman Neal:

Thank you for convening this hearing today on our nation's infrastructure and the need for action. Addressing our infrastructure needs starts with cutting the red tape that adds costs and delays to projects that our nation needs. I hope we can work together this Congress to determine which parts of our infrastructure need improvement and then to make the improvements that best expand the America's ability to compete globally and grow our economy.

Funding these projects is another key part of solving our infrastructure needs. It would be a mistake to fund infrastructure by raising taxes on local businesses, making them uncompetitive in the global market. I look forward to working with you to find common ground on this key part of the equation.

We believe that there are several principles that must guide these policies to meet the future demands of freight and passenger movement, including:

- Streamlining and cutting federal government red tape to expedite projects.
- Promoting private investment in infrastructure.
- Reducing regulatory burdens on U.S. businesses.
- Empowering state and local governments.
- Making smart investments in projects of the most national importance.
- Encouraging technological solutions and promoting innovation.
- Avoiding a repeat of the failed 2009 stimulus bill's headlong rush into projects without sufficient consideration of their efficiency.
- Letting our economy become more energy efficient through the forces of supply and demand instead of new tax burdens and mandates.
- Rejecting severe limitations on our economy such as eliminating cars and airplanes.

Any infrastructure plan must include reforms that streamline the approval and permitting processes and reduce wasteful government red tape. It's time for Washington to be responsible stewards over tax dollars levied against American families. I look forward to working with you this Congress to ensure that we can accomplish these goals.

Sincerely,



Kevin Brady
Republican Leader
Ways and Means Committee