



March 20, 2019

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and  
Urban Affairs  
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and  
Urban Affairs  
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Maxine Waters  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Financial Services  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

The Honorable Patrick McHenry  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Financial Services  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

Dear Chairman Crapo, Ranking Member Brown, Chairwoman Waters, and Ranking Member McHenry:

Infrastructure continues to be a critical issue for our country's future. Unfortunately, we are falling further behind in repairs and improvements to support our communities and economy. The American Society of Civil Engineers has given U.S. infrastructure a D+ grade in its *2017 Infrastructure Report Card*. Across the nation, deficiencies in transportation networks, water and wastewater systems, public facilities, energy grids, and solid waste centers cost Americans billions of dollars per year. Congress recently hosted a series of hearings presenting witness testimony on challenges presented by failing infrastructure. The message is clear: action is needed now to address the backlog of trillions in infrastructure needs.

Although various paths exist, common goals remain to address widespread infrastructure problems: leveraging of non-federal funding, ensuring accountability, and promoting sustainable and meaningful projects. One particular agency offers credible background on infrastructure development, delivering results aligned with these goals: the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD supports economic and social needs of low-income and vulnerable populations. To accomplish this, the agency leads programs aimed not only at safe and quality housing, but community-wide infrastructure as well. These initiatives have translated into significant and long-term benefits on local and regional levels.

One of HUD's strongest and most successful forms of assistance in infrastructure development is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The program affords local governments the ability to invest federal funds to assist low-to-moderate income populations, improve slum and blighted conditions, and respond to urgent needs. Most CDBG resources target infrastructure projects. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, **\$1.9 billion or 62% of its program funding** was dedicated to infrastructure developments. Again, for FY2018, **nearly \$2 billion or 59% of program resources** went towards infrastructure. As a result, CDBG provides a tremendous return on investment with **every dollar of federal money leveraging \$4.09 in private and other public funding**. CDBG is an infrastructure program and stands prepared to facilitate large-scale federal action. The nationwide network of local and state CDBG stakeholders will be an invaluable resource on community-based project development and engagement. As proposals are being considered, members of the CDBG Coalition are available for additional input and assistance as well. Our group is ready and looks forward to working with Congress on this priority.

Sincerely,

American Planning Association

Council of Large Public Housing Authorities

Council of State Community Development Agencies

Enterprise Community Partners

Feeding America

Habitat for Humanity International

Heartland Alliance

International Code Council

International Economic Development Council

National Association for County Community and Economic Development

National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders

National Association of Counties

National Association of Development Organizations

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials

National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies

National Association of Regional Councils

National Community Development Association

National Governors Association

National League of Cities

National Main Street Center

National NeighborWorks Association

National Recreation and Park Association

National Rural Water Association

National Urban League

Rebuilding Together

Rural Community Assistance Partnership

The Trust for Public Land

U.S. Conference of Mayors

YWCA USA