

November 1, 2017

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
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Dear Senator Brown:

On behalf of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), I want to thank you for your leadership and commitment to improving our nation's infrastructure. Specifically, we would like to applaud and offer our support to your legislation – the Bridge Investment Act.

Earlier this year, ASCE released its *2017 Infrastructure Report Card* which graded our nation's bridges a "C+", with 56,007, or 9.1%, of the nation's bridges being structurally deficient in 2016 and on average 188 million trips across a structurally deficient bridge each day. Additionally, the average age of our bridges keeps going up and many of the nation's bridges are approaching the end of their design life. Simply put, we are putting our economy and safe in serious risk.

By investing \$75 billion over the next decade in repairs, creating a competitive grant program for bridge refurbishment; establishing a standardized evaluation process for proposed projects and expected benefits; providing an adequate funding mechanisms for multi-size projects; and enabling states, counties, cities, metropolitan planning organizations, special purpose districts and public authorities with transportation function, Federal land management agencies, and Indian tribes to apply; the Bridge Investment Act will address the needs of our bridges and make our nation stronger and safer.

Thank you for your leadership and support of this critical issue. We look forward to working with you as the legislation works its way through Congress.

Sincerely,



Kristina L. Swallow, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE
2018 ASCE President