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January 3, 2018

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Ranking Democrat
Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

The American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) is pleased to support all efforts to upgrade the nation's bridge inventory. The Bridge Investment Act is a thoughtful proposal that would authorize much needed additional resources to improve the safety and performance of bridges across the country.

According to ARTBA analysis of the National Bridge Inventory, there are over 1.15 billion crossings every day on bridges in the United States that are classified as either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete – a designation that applies to 23 percent of our bridge network. This includes travel by commuters, shoppers, school buses, ambulances and freight trucks carrying goods across the country. Bridges that have weight or capacity restrictions because of poor conditions are crossed an average of 77.6 million times every day. Over 95 million crossings are on bridges where the deck condition has been rated by inspectors as poor, serious, critical or approaching “imminent failure.” Additionally, 53 million crossings occur on bridges where the structural evaluation is rated as “basically intolerable.”

While the U.S. has vast unmet bridge needs that are well documented and irrefutable, we are not just suffering from a bridge crisis. We need to dramatically upgrade the nation's roadways, public transportation facilities, airports, rails and waterways as well. The U.S. transportation network is a holistic system and we must address all of these needs in a meaningful. A robust, permanent Highway Trust Fund revenue solution should be the first step toward achieving this objective.

ARTBA commends your leadership on this critical national issue and pledges to work with you to deliver the transportation infrastructure network all Americans and the U.S. economy deserve.

Sincerely,

T. Peter Ruane
President and CEO