



October 19, 2017

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) appreciated the outreach from your staff to discuss your proposed legislation the **“Bridge Investment Act”**. Leah Hill and Homer Carlisle engaged ASCE National staff and Ohio members in meaningful dialogue to weigh the merits of your proposal. ASCE has advocated the need for more robust funding of infrastructure in all sectors. At its October 5th meeting, the ASCE Ohio Council delegates voted unanimously to support your efforts in providing additional funding to repair and replace America’s bridges.

In early March of this year, ASCE national released its *2017 Report Card on America’s Infrastructure*. That report stated that 9.1% (56,007) of bridges are rated structurally deficient with almost 4 in 10 structures having an age of at least 50 years. This has created a \$123 billion backlog in needed bridge repairs. Here in Ohio, which has the 2nd largest inventory of bridges and 5th most interstate lane miles in the U.S., almost 2,000 bridges are rated structurally deficient and 17% of roads are rated in poor condition. This costs Ohioans an estimated \$475 in extra costs annually due to these deficiencies. The \$75 billion additional investment, as proposed in the **“The Bridge Investment Act”**, will provide an opportunity for counties and municipalities with stagnant funding to program bridges for replacement as well as provide a means to fund critical mega projects such as the Brent Spence Bridge.

The ASCE Ohio Council of Local Sections commends and supports your recognition and efforts, along with Senators Whitehouse and Wyden, to invest in our nation’s infrastructure. As always, our organization is available to provide information and assistance to you and your staff as you work to solve the challenges facing infrastructure improvement and investment.

Sincerely,

David M. Armstrong, P.E.
ASCE Ohio Council President

James A. Pajk, P.E.
ASCE Ohio Federal Advocacy Captain