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November 9, 2018

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leaders McConnell and McCarthy, and Minority Leaders Schumer and Pelosi:

On behalf of the New York Building Congress, I strongly encourage the 116th Congress to make infrastructure investment the top priority in the new year. A successful infrastructure package will encourage active participation among all levels of government and between the public and private sectors without shifting federal responsibilities.

The Building Congress is a nearly 100-year-old organization working to encourage the growth and success of the building industry and the vibrancy of New York and the country at large. Our broad-based membership coalition is composed of more than 550 constituent organizations in the design, construction and real estate industry, employing over a quarter million professionals and tradespeople.

Time and time again, the desperate state of our country's inadequate and deteriorating infrastructure has been discussed as a priority. Sadly, Americans have yet to see a comprehensive national infrastructure bill that will move us back to the forefront of the world. Now is the time for action and progress. As we enter a stage of bipartisanship, we must put politics aside and focus on something everyone can agree on: updating infrastructure across the United States.

The Building Congress believes that any path forward on this issue must increase direct federal investments in a broad range of infrastructure sectors over the next 10 years in order to achieve a \$1 trillion federal investment.

This initiative should complement and strengthen existing tools, such as municipal bonds, to successfully deliver infrastructure investments at the federal, state, and local levels. Legislation should also facilitate opportunities for private investment in U.S. infrastructure and create efficiencies by accelerating the federal permitting process. A successful infrastructure package will require bi-partisan compromises

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and a renewed commitment by the federal government to provide the foundational support necessary to bring American infrastructure into the 21st century.

The Building Congress believes that it will be vital to fix chronic challenges and address recurrent shortages in key federal infrastructure accounts such as the Highway Trust Fund. In order to do this, Congress must seriously consider a long-needed increase in the federal gas tax to provide the HTF with a source of significant growth.

No single agency can deliver a well-functioning national U.S. infrastructure system alone. A cooperative network driven by a long-term vision and stable funding will be required.

We here at the Building Congress are ready to assist to make America's infrastructure goals a reality.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carlo Scissura', written in dark ink.

Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.
President and CEO
New York Building Congress