February 5, 2020

Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen:

We write in a spirit of bipartisan cooperation to offer our assistance and support to you in advancing a comprehensive infrastructure package in this Congress. We especially want to thank you for your leadership in developing your Moving Forward Framework that is responsive to the infrastructure priorities of the nation's mayors.

There is no doubt that you heard the voice of America's mayors on our many infrastructure needs -- your framework speaks to many of the issues we have identified. We certainly know better than anyone the challenges facing American cities and the incredible opportunity this framework provides to improve people's lives, through sustained and growing investment in our infrastructure networks and facilities. As Republicans and Democrats, we believe building the nation's infrastructure transcends the partisan divide and strengthens American's faith in our leadership.

At the Conference of Mayors where we serve in leadership positions, we have been guided by a commitment to what we call the Three Is: Infrastructure, Innovation, and Inclusion. All three, we believe, are central to a functioning and efficient 21st century infrastructure. We translated this commitment into specific recommendations, which we set forth in our Mayors’ 2020 Vision for America: A Call to Action. We are so pleased that our broad policy agenda offering bipartisan solutions in the infrastructure area aligns so closely with the elements of your framework.

For some time, we have sought greater federal commitments to funding public transit and to measures that localize more highway dollars and are pleased that your vision seeks to accomplish these goals. These proposals are vital to your future goal of a carbon-free transportation sector. Importantly, it invests in local innovation and new research to accomplish this outcome. We called for a stronger partnership with cities in upgrading our water, wastewater and stormwater systems, and this is part of your vision. And, we have called for renewing the Energy
Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program to support our local energy and climate initiatives. Finally, investing in brownfields and helping us recycle properties and land, especially in locations where existing infrastructure is in place and underutilized, is so important. These are just a few of the notable features of your framework.

In addition to indicating our strong support for this framework, we also want to convey our willingness to engage with you and your committees as the legislative process progresses. We will help you make the case that this framework speaks directly to the needs of people in their local areas – be it cities, towns and counties.

We pledge to work with you to deliver the type of infrastructure system that can make Americans proud and propel this country into a decade of greater prosperity. Importantly, we believe your framework moves us in that direction.

Sincerely,

Mayor Bryan K. Barnett
Rochester Hills, MI
President

Mayor Greg Fischer
Louisville, KY
Vice President

Mayor Nan Whaley
Dayton, OH
Second Vice President

Mayor Jon Mitchell
New Bedford, MA
Chair, Energy

Mayor Harry La Rosiliere
Plano, TX
Chair, Transportation and Communications

Mayor Rick Kriesman
St. Petersburg, FL
Chair, Environment

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles, CA
Chair, Infrastructure Task Force

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director