

December 6, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

The undersigned organizations, who represent both the public and private sectors, write today to urge the swift passage of the bipartisan *State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act* (S. 3011/H.R. 5735). As organizations at the forefront of America's economic recovery from the pandemic, we want to ensure state and local governments can fulfill the Congressional intent of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

In addition to our gratitude for the historic investments in state and local governments contained in ARPA, we also applaud the passage of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA/P.L. 117-58), which will help rebuild our nation's infrastructure and transportation systems. The *State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act* will build on the IIJA by giving state and local governments the flexibility to use ARPA funds to invest in infrastructure immediately while the IIJA is implemented over the next several years.

This legislation would ensure that state and local governments, which collectively own nearly 100 percent of the nation's transportation infrastructure, can meet their responsibilities to the nation as intergovernmental partners. These responsibilities include significant public infrastructure leadership, including owning, operating and maintaining public roads, bridges and our nation's public transit systems, and providing government services such as public health, justice, human services, and safety.

Passage of this legislation – a bipartisan compromise that unanimously passed the U.S. Senate – is key to successfully achieving our shared goals of helping our residents thrive. This new legislation would provide much-needed flexibility in state and local ARPA funds and would neither mandate funds be used in any particular way nor increase overall federal appropriations. This bill would also cap infrastructure investments to ensure funds are not diverted from the ongoing public health emergency.

We believe that providing state and local leaders with flexible resources is the surest way to see our nation's preparedness and responsivity continue. Passage of this bipartisan legislation will accomplish the true intent of the ARPA – assisting states, cities, counties, tribes and territories in their recovery from the disastrous impacts of the global pandemic. We believe the *State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act* is imperative to fully leverage the benefits of the ARPA's once-in-a-generation investment and urge you to pass it swiftly.

Sincerely,

National Association of Counties  
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials  
American Bus Association  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Foundry Society  
American Highway Users Alliance  
American Public Transportation Association

American Public Works Association  
American Road & Transportation Builders Association  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Subcontractors Association  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Building America's Future  
Community Transportation Association of America  
Design-Build Institute of America  
FP2, Formerly the Foundation for Pavement Preservation  
Government Finance Officers Association  
Institute of Transportation Engineers  
League of American Bicyclists  
National Asphalt Pavement Association  
National Association for County Community and Economic Development  
National Association of County Engineers  
National Association of Development Organizations  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of Regional Councils  
National Association of Surety Bond Producers  
National Community Development Association  
National League of Cities  
National Precast Concrete Association  
National Society of Professional Surveyors  
Portland Cement Association  
Safe Routes Partnership  
Subsurface Utility Engineering Association  
United States Chamber of Commerce  
United States Conference of Mayors  
U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization