

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2018

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As you continue working on a national infrastructure plan, we write in support of recognizing our nation's public schools as critical infrastructure with important needs. Our public schools strengthen our communities across the nation and are the foundation of a competitive economy. It is crucial that we address issues of deferred maintenance and deteriorating school facilities.


Preparing students to be successful contributors to our nation requires learning infrastructure capable of supporting engagement and access to technology. According to the National Education Association, school facilities is second, only to highways, as the largest sector of public infrastructure spending; however, it has been more than twenty years since the federal government conducted a comprehensive review of the state or needs of our nation's school facilities. Due to a lack of resources, many schools have forgone maintenance projects and now have a variety of issues including poor indoor air quality, crumbling plaster, peeling paint, and faulty heating and cooling systems. These maintenance issues prevent schools from adequately investing in programming and innovative technology.

To help schools modernize deteriorating facilities, the federal government should partner with states to find innovative financing mechanisms and ensure adequate funding for schools in all communities, whether they are urban, low-income, suburban, or rural. Investing in our school infrastructure will advance student academic achievement, spur job growth, and stimulate innovation.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing a bold vision for rebuilding infrastructure in America. We believe that school infrastructure is an essential piece of our national infrastructure, and we look forward to working with you to advance student achievement by addressing public schools in any comprehensive infrastructure bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.


Sincerely,



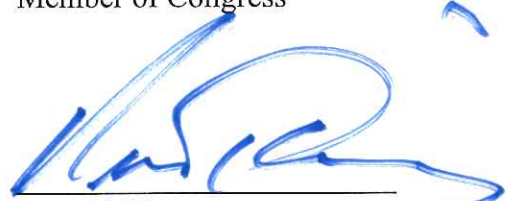
David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress




John Katko
Member of Congress



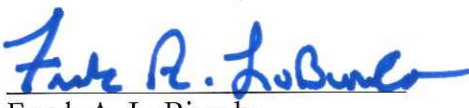
Peter T. King
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



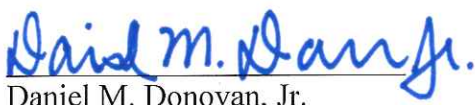
Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



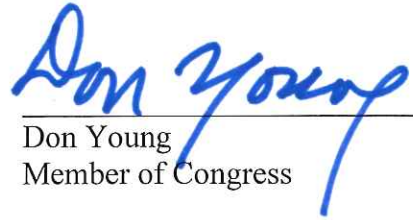
Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
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Steve Stivers
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