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July 27, 2022

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chair
Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas,

I am writing on behalf of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)¹ to express our deep appreciation for your leadership in advancing the nation's research enterprise and to express our support for H.R. 4346, the CHIPS and Science Act currently under discussion in the Senate.

ASCE applauds the bipartisan and bicameral work that has gone into this legislation that will prove vital to strengthening our nation's research enterprise. ASCE believes that a continued strong commitment to our science and research needs will facilitate durable, secure, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure systems that will meet the needs of the 21st century and protect the public health, safety, welfare, and the environment.

ASCE is pleased with the inclusion by the Senate of the science and research provisions of the America COMPETES Act in the CHIPS Act. That language not only supports the ongoing work being done at the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Department of Energy's Office of Science, but will go a long way to renewing and expanding research and development work in the United States and keep us competitive.

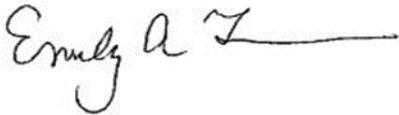
¹ ASCE was founded in 1852 and is the country's oldest national civil engineering organization. It represents more than 150,000 civil engineers individually in private practice, government, industry, and academia who are dedicated to the advancement of the science and profession of civil engineering. ASCE is a non-profit educational and professional society organized under Part 1.501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. www.asce.org,

Just as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) targets many of the solutions outlined in ASCE's [2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure](#) to raise the grades, the CHIPS and Science Act will restore the United States' commitment to research and development. ASCE believes that together with the IIJA, a significant investment in R&D will accelerate the development of new and innovative materials and processes, which will cut costs and facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure. Therefore, the CHIPS and Science Act is the complement that the IIJA requires in order to meet future needs and ensure the best possible infrastructure for the 21st century.

Once again, ASCE thanks you for your leadership and recognition of the critical role research and development plays in the nation's prosperity and well-being. We urge you to work with your colleagues in the House to quickly pass this critical legislation.

If you need more information or if ASCE can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Martin Hight, ASCE's Senior Manager for Government Relations at mhight@asce.org or 202-789-7843.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily A. Feenstra". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Emily A. Feenstra
Chief Policy and External Affairs Officer
American Society of Civil Engineers