



Asphalt Pavement Association of Oregon

5240 Gaffin Road SE, Salem, Or 97317
Phone: 503-363-3858 Fax: 503-363-5571

June 28, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
United States Congress
2134 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: INVEST in America Act

Dear Chairman DeFazio:

We are sending this in support of your leadership in introducing a bill, the INVEST in America Act (H.R.2), that will make desperately needed infrastructure investments and help us recover from the catastrophic economic effects of COVID-19.

The Asphalt Pavement Association of Oregon is not a politically-focused organization and we usually do not comment on legislative issues. However, we feel compelled to speak up because transportation infrastructure is at a critical stage with the looming expiration of the FAST Act, worsening road conditions, and the need to support family-wage jobs in a time of crisis.

We encourage other representatives to resist partisanship and to recognize that the INVEST in America Act's priorities are consistent with our Nation's priorities – we need transportation infrastructure that is sustainable, resilient, safe, smart, and funded at a level commensurate with its importance.

We appreciate that the INVEST in America Act is based on sound policy and are encouraged by:

- 100% federal funding for highway projects for 2021 – the immediate need to support states is essential and eliminating match requirements will provide significant relief.
- Increased funding for highways. Highway investment helps everyone and every business because it preserves past investments, facilitates social and economic interaction, and maintains a skilled workforce. Money that gets spent on infrastructure mostly goes to workers – who contribute to their communities. Construction workers can help lead us out of the current economic crisis.
- Prioritizing resilient infrastructure. The “greenest” project is the one that is constructed correctly. Avoiding mandates while prioritizing measurement, research, and experimentation is the right approach.
- Avoiding material selection requirements and special interest issues. We know industries and special interests advocate for mandates and formulas that favor their interests, and we appreciate that you resist those efforts and instead focus on policy.
- Funding VMT expansion – by now, this should be common sense.

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- Providing a path for capacity improvements. We understand the belief that transit and bussing will reduce trips and therefore might lessen greenhouse gas emissions. However, we have also seen capacity improvements benefit communities and believe that more busses and trains are not a viable solution everywhere. We believe alternative fuels and smart vehicles are the future of green travel and commerce. We want what you want – a transportation infrastructure system that supports our citizens and does not hurt our environment – and we appreciate that the Bill allows for capacity expansion, even if only after careful consideration.

We appreciate your leadership and look forward to working with you to improve the Nation's infrastructure.

Sincerely,



John J. Hickey, P.E., Esq.
Executive Director



Pete Sipos
North Santiam Paving
APAO President

Cc: Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, and Representatives Suzanne Bonamici, Greg Walden, Earl Blumenauer, and Kurt Schrader