



February 05, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer and Leader McCarthy:

As you set the strategic goals for the new Congress, the Rebuild Rural Coalition strongly encourages you to move quickly to pass bipartisan legislation to strengthen our nation's infrastructure, including specific provisions focused on the unique needs of rural communities and agriculture.

Rebuild Rural is comprised of more than 240 organizations from across the country that collectively represent U.S. agricultural producers, cooperatives, rural businesses, rural communities and rural families. We live and work every day in rural America and deeply understand the realities these communities face in order to remain prosperous and vibrant. We also understand that rural communities' needs are unique, oftentimes differing greatly from the realities of our urban counterparts.

Specifically, we believe it is critical to ensure that our rural communities have access to: clean and safe drinking water, secure and dependable surface transportation, reliable and affordable power, healthcare, housing, and broadband and research institutions with state-of-the-art facilities in order to thrive and attract future generations.

Rural communities play an important role in our nation's economy. They are home to a majority of U.S. manufacturing and our agricultural production. American agriculture provides the food and fiber for our country and the world, creating jobs for millions of Americans. Our farmers and ranchers are the most efficient producers in the world, but their ability to meet domestic demands as well as compete globally depends on robust and reliable transportation infrastructure including roads, inland waterways, ports, and railways. Deteriorating rural infrastructure, however, threatens the competitive leadership of American agriculture.

Rebuild Rural believes the federal government must continue to play an important role in providing funding for infrastructure and that those federal investments should increase. We also recognize federal resources alone cannot fill the entirety of the need. As organizations serving these rural communities, we recognize fulfilling this promise to our rural residents requires creative solutions that pair federal, state and local investment along with private sources of capital. As the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress commences, we stand ready to work with you — and your House and Senate colleagues — to help identify and implement these vital rural infrastructure improvements.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,