

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 16, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room 320, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Room 221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
House of Representatives
1236 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

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

We are writing to request that you prioritize protecting over \$7.6 billion in infrastructure funding as Congress considers appropriations before the end of the fiscal year.

Under Section 1438 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act; P.L. 114-94), a rescission of \$7.6 billion was included to decrease the budgetary baseline for highway programs beginning on July 1, 2020. At a time when our infrastructure needs are growing and Congress has failed to pass a comprehensive infrastructure bill, rescinding these funds would negatively impact every state in the nation, putting our economy at risk.

While every state would be affected, Nevada is always at significant peril if infrastructure funding is reduced because our population continues to grow faster than any other state.¹ Funds are crucial because not only do we have to repair and maintain our existing roads, bridges, and transit operations, the state must also continue to build new infrastructure to keep up with the needs of incoming residents, including accounting for the vital future Interstate 11.

If this rescission is not repealed, Nevada is estimated to lose over \$50 million dollars in funding.² These are funds that could expand roads in our rapidly growing urban centers, help ensure our remote and distant rural communities are connected, or help us prepare and account for larger investments like Interstate 11. Without these funds, our state's ability to plan and complete this significant project for our economy and future may be delayed.

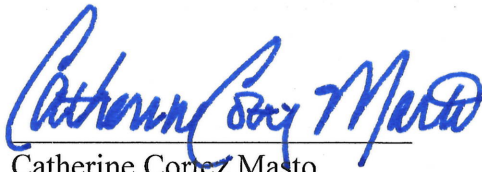
¹ <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2018/estimates-national-state.html>

² <https://www.transportation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/AASHTO-FAST-Act-Rescission-One-Pager-May-2019.pdf>

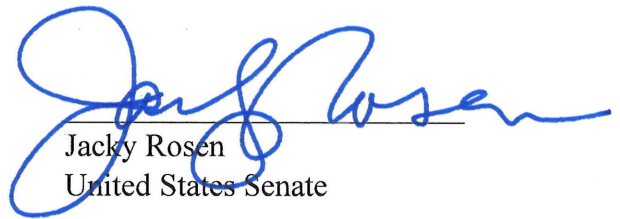
Every dollar of federal support for transportation investments is vital to Nevada. Congress must act to ensure that this rescission language is repealed in any appropriate legislative vehicle, including any potential continuing resolution that is considered during the appropriations process. A failure to address this issue would undermine our communities, costing jobs, economic growth, and prosperity at a time when our state needs it most.

We appreciate your time and attention on this matter.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate



Jacky Rosen
United States Senate