

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 17, 2018

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

Dear Mr. President:

Improving our nation's physical infrastructure is the linchpin for growing our economy, securing our communities, and ensuring that we remain competitive globally. Our nation's public schools are critical infrastructure. They are key facilities in almost every community, essential to a competitive economy, and are often one of the largest investments state and local governments make.

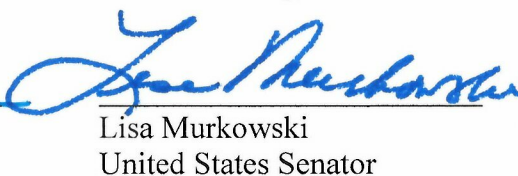
Indeed, safe, healthy, modern, well-equipped schools are essential for advancing student achievement and for ensuring that the next generation can achieve the American Dream and meet the economic, social, environmental, and global challenges our nation faces. Yet, too many of the over 50 million students and six million staff who learn and work in our public schools spend their days in facilities that fail to make the grade. A 2014 Department of Education study estimated that it would cost \$197 billion to bring all public schools into "good" condition. An independent review, the *2016 State of Our Schools* report, estimates that we underfund capital investments in our school buildings by \$38 billion *per year*.

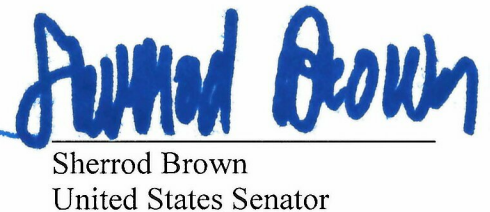
To address this crisis, the federal government should consider partnering with states on innovative financing mechanisms to help every community ensure their schools are safe, healthy, and modern, particularly in low-income and rural school districts where the need is often most profound. This is the right thing to do for students, educators, and communities. It is also a smart investment, since it will give a needed boost to our economy by creating local jobs in every community across the country. According to a recent economic analysis, every \$1 billion dollars invested in construction creates nearly 18,000 jobs. That means, for example, that a federal investment in school infrastructure of \$100 billion would yield an estimated 1.8 million jobs.

We believe this investment is an essential piece of a national infrastructure plan and stand ready work to with you to make sure it is a feature of any comprehensive infrastructure bill that makes it to your desk.


Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

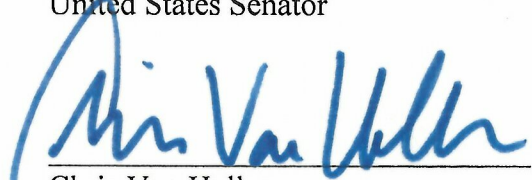

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator


Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

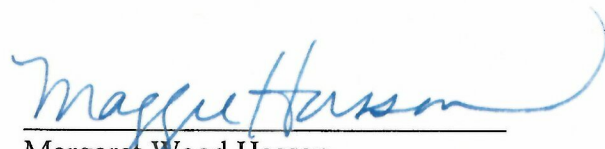

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

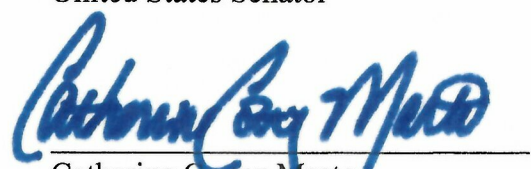

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

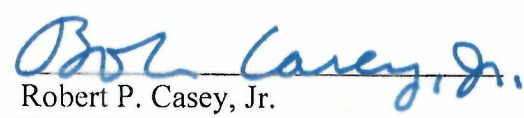

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

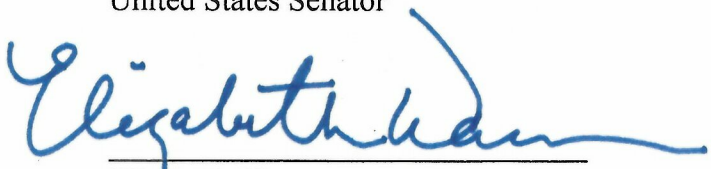

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

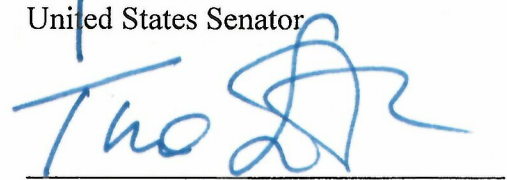

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

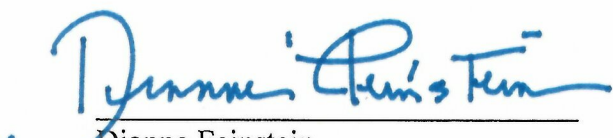

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

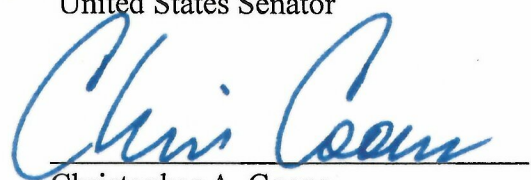

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Tina Smith
United States Senator


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Patrick Leahy

Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator