

March 22, 2019

The Honorable Jose Serrano, Chairman
The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
H-130 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515



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Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt,

As you draft the FY 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) requests strong commitment to our science and research needs by investing in key programs:

- National Science Foundation (NSF) funds basic research across all disciplines of science and engineering including innovative new materials, technologies, and processes to modernize and extend the life of infrastructure. ASCE request: \$9 billion. Included in this is \$54 million for the NSF functions of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) and \$9.7 million for the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP).
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) the premier, and in most cases, the key federal institution conducting resilience research. ASCE request: \$985 million. This includes \$9.7 million for NIST functions within NEHRP and \$4.1 million for NWIRP.

ASCE's *2017 Infrastructure Report Card* graded our nation's infrastructure as a D+. A continued lack of action will cost our nation \$3.9 trillion in GDP and 2.5 million jobs by 2025. Today, underinvestment in our infrastructure already costs the average American family \$3,400 per year, or \$9 a day. A key solution is to support innovation such as new materials, technologies, and processes to modernize and extend the life of infrastructure, expedite repairs or replacement, and promote cost savings.

Simply put, we need to invest NSF funds for basic research across all disciplines of science and engineering including innovative new materials, technologies, and processes. Meanwhile, ASCE supports NIST and its mission of promoting U.S. innovation and competitiveness by anticipating and meeting the needs of the U.S. building and fire safety industries for measurement science, standards, and technology. We thank you for your consideration of our funding requests and look forward to working with the Committee to fund these existing successful federal infrastructure programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin A. Kemper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "K".

Robin A. Kemper, P.E., LEED AP, F.SEI, F.ASCE
ASCE President 2019

cc: Chairwoman Nita Lowey and Ranking Member Granger, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Appropriations