



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**



SSINA
Specialty Steel Industry
of North America



March 31, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressional Leadership:

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures, and we very much appreciate the federal government and states aggressively working together to protect the health, safety, and economic wellbeing of American working families jeopardized by the deadly coronavirus. On behalf of the U.S. member companies of the five undersigned steel industry groups and the nearly two million U.S. workers directly or indirectly dependent on our industry, we write today to urge Congress to include an infrastructure package in the next phase of COVID-19 stimulus legislation in order to provide a clear path toward our nation's recovery.

American businesses will not likely feel the full economic impact of COVID-19 until later this year, as social distancing and shelter-in-place measures undoubtedly save lives but continue to slow economic activity in the manufacturing and construction sectors. While the recent \$2 trillion stimulus package addresses the immediate crisis, we believe that a forward-looking, robustly funded and long-term infrastructure package will create a path forward for jobs and growth as our nation recovers.

Making a long-term and robust infrastructure investment now will not only respond to the urgent transportation system needs that are well known, but it also will create high paying jobs allowing businesses and families to recover from this extremely difficult economic shock. The benefits from such a bill will flow throughout the economy. We can put more Americans to work, improve quality of life in our cities, towns and rural areas and drive commerce and supplies across our nation by making infrastructure investment a critical component of the next stimulus package by including Buy America provisions and using domestically produced and fabricated steel.

The state of our infrastructure is well documented. According to the Federal Highway Administration's National Bridge Inventory, 38% of America's 616,000 bridges are in need of replacement or rehabilitation. With such a staggering backlog of substandard

Congressional Leadership

March 31, 2020

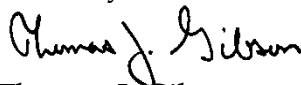
Page 2

bridges, there is significant opportunity to put Americans back to work and back on the road to economic recovery.

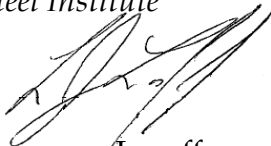
The infrastructure supply chain for steel products used in highway and bridge construction starts with American steel producers, who have revolutionized the industry by developing clean and efficient steelmaking processes at mills located strategically throughout the country. Steel is sold directly or through national distributors to construction companies and to approximately 1,000 American steel fabricators who have built plants – and created jobs – in virtually every congressional district in America. These companies fabricate and install the structural steel that make up America’s great steel bridges, airports, government buildings, transportation centers and other critical infrastructure projects. Through this supply chain, the steel industry employs millions of people directly with good-paying jobs, and initiates multiplier employment effects throughout the construction, manufacturing, engineering, research and many other sectors of the American economy. Indeed, research conducted by John Dunham & Associates on behalf of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) shows that, all told, the American iron and steel industry accounted for more than \$520 billion in economic output and nearly two million jobs in 2017. These workers earned over \$130 billion in wages and benefits, while the industry generated \$56 billion in federal, state and local taxes.

As you consider how best to provide immediate assistance to families and businesses harmed by COVID-19, we strongly urge you to consider including long-term infrastructure investment provisions that provide a recovery path for our nation’s workers and their families.

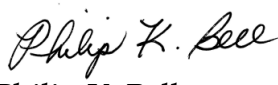
Sincerely,



Thomas J. Gibson
President and CEO
*American Iron and
Steel Institute*



Laurence Lasoff
Counsel
*Specialty Steel Industry
of North America*



Philip K. Bell
President
*Steel Manufacturers
Association
Tube Imports*



Charles J. Carter, S.E., P.E., Ph.D.
President
*American Institute of
Steel Construction*



Roger B. Schagrin
Executive Director and
General Counsel
Committee on Pipe and