

# United States Senate

May 26, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
U.S. Capitol, S-221  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Schumer,

Following the passage in the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the *Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021*, we urge you to quickly move toward the consideration of a robust infrastructure package at the scale and scope necessary to address the ongoing climate crisis, rebuild our economy, protect public health, create good-paying jobs, and address longstanding inequities.

The *Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021* reflects the work of the Committee in finding areas of bipartisan agreement and contains important provisions that will begin to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our transportation sector, as well as funding to reconnect communities affected by unjust planning practices—although it also contains some provisions that undermine environmental assessments and community engagement. But this legislation cannot be the last word on our national infrastructure needs. We must think bigger, do more, and not allow for the delay or derailment of our pro-jobs, pro-climate, and pro-justice agenda. Our legislation must pass nature's test of holding warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius to have a real shot at preventing catastrophic changes to the climate.

President Biden's American Jobs Plan calls for funding our surface transportation programs at approximately \$100 billion more than is included within this reauthorization, including a six-fold increase in spending for electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The American Jobs Plan also includes President Biden's Justice40 agenda, which states that at least 40 percent of benefits from federal investment should go toward disadvantaged communities. Finally, the American Jobs Plan recognizes that infrastructure cannot be limited to surface transportation alone, and supports clean water, clean air, family-sustaining jobs, and other benefits that come from investing in our communities.

The Senate cannot waste any more time in moving to develop, consider, and pass an infrastructure package that fully addresses the climate, jobs, health, and equity crises facing this

country. We must seize the opportunities produced by investing in our national infrastructure at the scope and scale it deserves. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

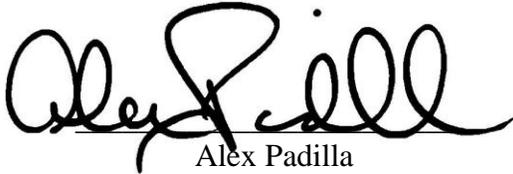
Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



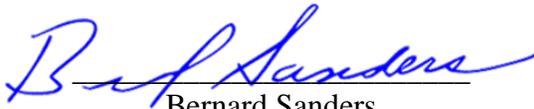
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator