February 22, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump President

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of our respective organizations, which collectively represent U.S. agricultural producers, rural businesses, rural communities, and rural families, we are writing to ask your support for rebuilding infrastructure in rural America.

We were very pleased to hear your comments about the importance of rebuilding U.S. infrastructure. Those of us in rural communities have seen our infrastructure deteriorate, jeopardizing jobs, our agricultural competitiveness, and the health of rural families. Past infrastructure initiatives often focused on urban and suburban infrastructure while not adequately addressing the unique needs of rural communities. We ask that you address this as part of your administration's comprehensive infrastructure renewal efforts.

American agriculture truly feeds the world and creates millions of jobs for U.S. workers. Our nation's ability to produce food and fiber and transport it efficiently across the globe is a critical factor in U.S. competitiveness internationally. Infrastructure that supports rural communities and links them to global markets has helped make the U.S. the unquestioned leader in agricultural production. Our deteriorating infrastructure threatens that leadership position.

Transportation infrastructure improvement is the most obvious need in rural communities, but not the only one. Highways, bridges, railways, locks and dams, harbors and port facilities all need major investment if we are to continue efficiently getting our agricultural products to market. For example, one-quarter of our road system's bridges require significant repair, or cannot efficiently handle today's traffic and many of the 240 locks and dams along the inland waterways are in need of modernization. In addition, though, critical needs exist in providing clean water for rural families, expanding broadband to connect rural communities to the outside world, and enhancing the ability to supply affordable, reliable and secure power for the rural economy.

The scope of the investment needed is staggering. Clearly the federal government must continue to play an important role in providing funding and those federal investments should increase. However, federal resources, likely cannot fill the need entirely. Creative solutions that pair federal investment with state/local government investment and private sources of capital hold promise for raising a portion of the funds necessary to do the job.

As you take office and begin addressing the nation's infrastructure needs, we hope you will provide leadership to ensure that rural America's needs are addressed. We stand ready to work with you and your administration to begin this important initiative.

Respectfully,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa Agribusiness Council of Indiana Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference Agricultural Retailers Association Agriculture & Commodities Transportation Coalition Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives Alaska Power Association

Alliance for I-69 Texas

Almond Alliance of California

American Association of Crop Insurers

American Cotton Shippers Association

American Dairy Coalition

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Feed Industry Association

American Horse Council

American Sheep Industry Association

American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers

American Soybean Association

Arkansas Electric Cooperatives

Arkansas Soybean Association

Association of Equipment Manufacturers

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives

Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives

Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives

Bongards Premium Cheese

California Association of Winegrape Growers

Colorado Rural Electric Association

Cooperative Network

Corn Refiners Association

Crop Insurance Professionals Association

Empire State Potato Growers, Inc.

Empire State Water Well Drillers' Association

Equipment Dealers Association

Farm Credit Council

Farmer Mac

Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.

Federation of Southern Cooperatives Rural Training and Research Center

First District Association

Florida Electric Cooperatives Association

Georgia Electric Membership Corporation

Golden State Power Cooperative

Grain and Feed Association of Illinois

Great Plains Canola Association

I-14 / Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition

Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association

Idaho Grain Producers Association

Illinois Corn Growers Association

Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association

Illinois Soybean Association

Indiana Corn Growers Association

Indiana Electric Cooperatives

Indiana Soybean Alliance

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives

Iowa Corn Growers Association

Iowa Institute for Cooperatives

Iowa Soybean Association

Kansas Association of Wheat Growers

Kansas Cooperative Council

Kansas Electric Cooperatives

Kansas Grain and Feed Association

Kansas Soybean Association

Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives

Kentucky Corn Growers Association

Kentucky Soybean Association

Louisiana Association of Cooperatives

Louisiana Ground Water Association

Maryland Grain Producers Association

Michigan Agri-Business Association

Michigan Bean Shippers

Michigan Electric Cooperative Association

Michigan Soybean Association

Midwest Shippers Association

Minnesota AgriGrowth Council

Minnesota Corn Growers Association

Minnesota Farmers Union

Minnesota Grain and Feed Association

Minnesota Milk Producers Association

Minnesota Pork Producers Association

Mississippi Association of Cooperatives

Mississippi Soybean Association

Missouri Corn Growers Association

Missouri Soybean Association

Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

Montana Grain Growers Association

National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

National Association of Towns and Townships

National Association of Wheat Growers

National Barley Growers Association

National Black Growers Council

National Cooperative Business Association

National Corn Growers Association

National Cotton Council

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Family Farm Coalition

National Farmers Union

National Grain and Feed Association

National Grange

National Ground Water Association

National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association

National Milk Producers Federation

National Oilseed Processors Association

National Pork Producers Council

National Potato Council

National Rural Economic Developers Association

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

National Rural Water Association

National Sorghum Producers

National Sunflower Association

Nebraska Corn Growers Association

Nebraska Grain and Feed Association

Nebraska Rural Electric Association

Nebraska Soybean Association

Nevada Rural Electric Association

New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association

New York Corn and Soybean Association

New York State Agribusiness Associations

New York State Vegetable Growers Association

North American Millers' Association

North Carolina Electric Cooperatives

North Carolina Ground Water Association

North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association

North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives

North Dakota Corn Growers Association

North Dakota Grain Dealers Association

North Dakota Soybean Growers Association

Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance

Northeast Association of Electric Cooperatives

Northeast Cooperative Council

NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association

Ohio Agribusiness Association

Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers

Ohio Dairy Producers Association

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

Ohio Pork Council

Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives

Ohio Soybean Association

Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers Association

Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council

Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives

Oklahoma Soybean Association

Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association

Oregon Potato Commission

Oregon Wheat Growers League

Panhandle Peanut Growers Association

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association

Rural and Agriculture Council of America

Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural

Rural Development Leadership Network

SE Minnesota Grain and Feed Dealers

Select Milk Producers, Inc.

South Carolina Fertilizer and AgriChemical Association

South Carolina Peach Council

South Dakota Association of Cooperatives

South Dakota Corn Growers Association

South Dakota Rural Electric Association

South Dakota Soybean Association

Southern Peanut Farmers Federation

Southwest Council of Agribusiness

Soy Transportation Coalition

State Agriculture and Rural Leaders

Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association

Tennessee Soybean Association

Texas Ag Industries Association

Texas Elective Cooperatives

Texas Grain and Feed Association

Texas Vegetation Management Association

The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina

U.S. Canola Association

U.S. Dry Bean Council

U.S. Forage Export Council

U.S. Poultry and Egg Association

United Egg Producers

United Fresh Produce Association

USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council

USA Rice

Utah Rural Electric Association

Virginia Agribusiness Council

Virginia Beef Industry Council

Virginia Cattlemen's Association

Virginia Cooperative Council

Virginia Farm Bureau

Virginia FFA Association

Virginia Horse Council

Virginia Poultry Federation

Virginia State Dairymen's Association

Virginia Telecommunications Industry Association

Virginia Water Well Association

Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives

Washington Association of Wheat Growers

Washington State Potato Commission

Water Systems Council

Water Well Trust

West Virginia Farm Bureau

West Virginia FFA and Agricultural Education

West Virginia Poultry Association

Western Peanut Growers Association

Wisconsin Agri-business Association

Wisconsin Corn Growers Association

Wisconsin Soybean Association

Women Involved in Farm Economics

WTA - Advocates for Rural Broadband

Wyoming Rural Electric Association

CC: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Charles Schumer
The Honorable Paul Ryan
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi