



DAVID A. RAYMOND
PRESIDENT & CEO

July 14, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – representing more than 5,000 small and large engineering companies throughout the United States – we urge you to make passage of a new six-year surface transportation bill a top priority this year in your economic recovery effort.

Early passage of a robust transportation authorization is an essential complement to the infrastructure investments included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). While ARRA is moving many short-term, “shovel-ready” projects forward, failure to pass a longer term transportation bill will prevent state and local governments from investing in major infrastructure upgrades that will generate sustainable new jobs and economic activity. Uncertainty and prolonged underinvestment will force the delay or cancellation of projects that would facilitate a competitive economy.

The funding guarantees of a new six-year program will keep jobs created by ARRA from disappearing. Moreover, new services, materials and equipment contracts would be let, and many workers who lost their jobs over the last year could be put back to work.

Mr. President, ARRA has provided us with a critical first step, but the country needs a more sustained program for the recovery effort to succeed. We urge you to move forward now with a renewed, multi-year commitment to rebuilding the nation’s transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Raymond", is written over a horizontal line.