



DAVID A. RAYMOND
PRESIDENT & CEO

February 5, 2009

Additional Infrastructure Investment Needed for Immediate and Sustainable Recovery

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies - the business association of the nation's engineering industry - we strongly urge you to support amendments to the stimulus bill that significantly increase the level of infrastructure investment.

The number of projects that could be started within the next 180 days far exceeds the current levels of funding in the Senate recovery package. Surveys from state departments of transportation identify over \$66 billion in highway and bridge projects alone. State and local water and wastewater authorities point to at least \$29 billion in projects ready to go.

These numbers provide ample justification for doubling the funding levels currently in the Senate package, which would go far to provide a needed boost to the economy and address the critical backlog of infrastructure needs in the country.

In particular, ACEC strongly urges you to support the amendment offered by Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) and Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) to redirect up to \$50 billion of unobligated funding from slow-spending, non-stimulative programs into core highway, transit and clean water and drinking water programs.

ACEC also supports an amendment offered by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) to provide an additional \$13 billion for highways, \$5 billion for transit, and \$7 billion for water projects, as well as other amendments to boost infrastructure investment.

We believe these investments can be injected into the economy quickly, and we are confident in the ability of engineering firms in your state to provide the support necessary to enable state and local agencies to put these dollars to work. Many state agencies have streamlined their contracting processes in anticipation of the stimulus program, so that they will be able to quickly and efficiently allocate the new federal funds to projects.

Thank you for your attention and your commitment to rebuilding our economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David A. Raymond".