



January 28, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

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

Your plan to Build Back Better in Rural America rightly notes the crumbling state of our country's infrastructure. We have witnessed this deterioration first-hand – how it jeopardizes jobs, our agricultural competitiveness and the health of rural families. As you are aware, 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. In particular, we appreciate your plan specifically includes roads and bridges, locks and dams, railroads, electrical and water systems, agricultural research at land grant universities, broadband, healthcare and housing. These areas all require major investment for America to continue efficiently moving 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 need modernization. Critical needs also exist in providing clean water and quality, affordable housing for rural families, expanding broadband to connect rural communities to the outside world, and enhancing the ability to supply reliable and secure power.

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, as your plan also suggests, federal resources alone cannot fill the void. 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 for some of these infrastructure priorities. Further, we urge you to ensure rural people have a voice in the

infrastructure priorities and have an opportunity to own, control and benefit from the new investments through cooperatives or other mechanisms that promote local forms of ownership.

As you 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 undertaking.

Respectfully,

AgLaunch

Agribusiness Association of Iowa

Agribusiness Council of Indiana

Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference

Agricultural Retailers Association

Agriculture Transportation Coalition

AgriSafe

Alabama Farmers Federation

Alliance for I-69 Texas

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Agri-Women

American Association of Crop Insurers

American Bar Association

American Cotton Shippers Association

American Dairy Coalition

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Farmland Trust

American Feed Industry Association

American Horse Council

American Seed Trade Association

American Sheep Industry Association

American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers

American Soybean Association

American Sugar Alliance

Arizona Farm Bureau Federation

Arkansas Soybean Association

Association of Equipment Manufacturers

Board on Agriculture Assembly of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Bongards Premium Cheese

California Association of Winegrape Growers

California Farm Bureau Federation

Colorado Farm Bureau

Corn Refiners Association

Council for Affordable & Rural Housing

Council of State Community Development Agencies

Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau

Crop Insurance Professionals Association

Empire State Potato Growers, Inc.

Empire State Water Well Drillers' Association

Enterprise Community Partners

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 Agri-Women  
Florida Farm Bureau  
Georgia Farm Bureau  
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois  
Great Plains Canola Association  
Housing Assistance Council  
I-14 / Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition  
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation  
Idaho Grain Producers Association  
Illinois Corn Growers Association  
Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association  
Illinois Soybean Association  
Indiana Corn Growers Association  
Indiana Soybean Alliance  
Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Intertribal Agriculture Council  
Iowa Corn Growers Association  
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation  
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives  
Iowa Soybean Association  
Iowa-Nebraska Equipment Dealers Association  
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers  
Kansas Cooperative Council  
Kansas Corn  
Kansas Farm Bureau  
Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Kansas Soybean Association  
Kentucky Corn Growers Association  
Kentucky Soybean Association  
Land O' Lakes, Inc  
Louisiana Association of Cooperatives  
Louisiana Ground Water Association  
Maryland Grain Producers Association  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Michigan Bean Shippers  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
Michigan Soybean 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 Farm Bureau  
Missouri Soybean Association  
Montana Grain Growers Association  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Development Organizations  
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 Cattlemen's Beef Association  
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 Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Rural Economic Developers Association  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
National Rural Health Association  
National Rural Housing Coalition  
National Rural Lenders Association  
National Rural Water Association  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
Native American Agriculture Fund  
Nebraska Corn Growers Association  
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association  
Nebraska Soybean Association  
New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation  
New York Corn and Soybean Association  
New York Farm Bureau  
New York State Agribusiness Associations  
New York State Vegetable Growers Association  
North American Millers' Association  
North American Renderers Association  
North Carolina Ground Water Association  
North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association  
North Dakota Corn Growers Association

North Dakota Grain Dealers Association  
North Dakota Grain Growers Association  
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association  
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance  
Northeast Cooperative Council  
NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association  
Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing  
Ohio Agribusiness Association  
Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers  
Ohio Dairy Producers Association  
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation  
Ohio Pork Council  
Ohio Soybean Association  
Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers Association  
Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council  
Oklahoma Soybean Association  
Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association  
Oregon Farm Bureau Federation  
Oregon Wheat Growers League  
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors  
Ports-to-Plains Alliance  
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association  
Rural and Agriculture Council of America  
Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural  
Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP)  
Rural Community College Alliance  
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 Soybean Association  
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Soy Transportation Coalition  
Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance  
State Agriculture and Rural Leaders  
Tennessee Soybean Association  
Texas Ag Industries Association  
Texas Grain and Feed Association  
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Dry Bean Council  
U.S. Forage Export Council  
U.S. Peanut Federation  
U.S. Poultry and Egg Association  
United Egg Producers

United Fresh Produce Association  
USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council  
USA Rice  
Virginia Agribusiness 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  
Washington Association of Wheat Growers  
Washington State Potato Commission  
Water Systems Council  
Water Well Trust  
Waterways Council, Inc.  
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 Farm Bureau Federation  
Wisconsin Soybean Association  
Women Involved in Farm Economics  
WTA - Advocates for Rural Broadband  
Wyoming Wheat Growers Association