



**American Society of Civil Engineers**

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January 31, 2008

Senator Ron Wyden  
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Dear Senator Wyden:

During floor consideration today of the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR), John Thune (R-SD), Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and Richard Shelby (R-AL) will offer an amendment to provide an additional \$5 billion in revenue for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) to be spent on ready-to-go transportation projects to help stimulate the economy. On behalf of the more than 140,000 members of the American Society of Civil Engineers, we urge you to support the Wyden-Thune-Dodd-Shelby amendment.

Congress has an unequalled opportunity to begin to correct the problem of under-investment in basic public works systems aimed at maintaining the public health and safety and harnessing the enormous power of our economy. In 2005, ASCE reported that America was falling behind in its investment in our infrastructure to an alarming degree. In fact, ASCE's 2005 Report Card for America's Infrastructure gave the nation's infrastructure an overall grade of "D" due to this under-investment.

This type of investment will pay huge dividends now and in the future. It has been estimated that for each \$1 billion in new infrastructure investment, the economy creates 47,000 jobs. In addition to the short-term benefits of invigorating the national economy, a greater federal commitment to infrastructure investment would boost the nation's productive capacity by providing the infrastructure necessary to support growth.

An infusion of federal transportation spending in the first quarter of this year would have a direct stimulus effect by putting hard working people back to work. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials has identified 3,027 transportation projects in 47 states that are ready to start construction within 90 days. Please support the Wyden-Thune-Dodd-Shelby amendment to provide real economic stimulus.

If ASCE can be of any further assistance to your office in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Pallasch at (202) 789-7842.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Mongan, P.E., F.ASCE  
President