

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY

FINANCE

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

JOINT ECONOMIC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2018

The Honorable Mike Turzai
Speaker of the House
139 Main Capitol Building
Post Office Box 202028
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
17120-2028

The Honorable Jay Costa
Senate Minority Floor Leader
535 Main Capitol Building
Post Office Box 203043
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
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The Honorable Bryan Cutler
House Majority Leader
110 Main Capitol Building
Post Office Box 202100
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
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The Honorable Frank Dermody
House Minority Leader
423 Main Capitol Building
Post Office Box 202033
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
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The Honorable Jake Corman
Senate Majority Floor Leader
Senate Box 203034
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
17120-3034

Dear Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly:

Infrastructure is the foundation of Pennsylvania's ability to compete and prosper in a 21st century economy. High speed internet is vital if our entrepreneurs are to innovate and for our businesses to transact business, yet a digital divide continues to separate the citizens of our state. Roads and transit are needed to move goods from production to consumer and citizens to their jobs and back. Water and power infrastructure, and the ability of businesses to access them at affordable rates, are among the vital factors that businesses consider when making decisions about where to locate, expand and add jobs. In short, the quality of the Commonwealth's infrastructure is directly and vitally related to our economy and the working families who power it, impacting everything from economic development and global competitiveness, to our quality of life, safety, environment and resiliency.

Despite this, our infrastructure needs are urgent. There are currently 800,000 Pennsylvanians who lack access to high-speed internet, 300,000 blighted structures and 6,000 brownfield sites waiting to be redeveloped and over 3,700 bridges in need of repair or replacing. While our infrastructure ages or awaits revitalization and repair, our competitors are moving ahead –

building roads, investing in ports and waterways, upgrading and expanding high speed internet and strengthening the resiliency of the system as a whole.

I am confident that given the right tools and environment, Pennsylvania's businesses and workers can outwork, out-compete and out-innovate our competitors. Our support still remains necessary to complete these goals. I am proud to have worked on Congressional efforts to address ongoing infrastructure needs and will continue to advocate for increased federal investments as Congress begins consideration of a long-term transportation bill. Laying the foundation for an infrastructure that will grow our economy is both a shared goal and a shared responsibility. I know that working together, we can rebuild it at the local, state and federal levels.

To that end, I urge the General Assembly to immediately take up Governor Wolf's *Restore Pennsylvania* plan. This plan would make historic investments in high-speed internet access, storm preparedness and resiliency, transit and blight demolition and redevelopment. It represents an opportunity for both parties to come together and make an historic investment in the economy of the Commonwealth, and in so doing, in the future of our children, our families, our middle class and the state of Pennsylvania. At a time when our politics are too often marked by discord and disagreement, I believe this represents a rare opportunity to come together and unite around a shared goal.

We can and must address these issues through innovation and advocacy at all levels of government. The General Assembly has already shown its commitment to these issues when, in 2013, it crafted and enacted into law Act 89, the state's most comprehensive transportation legislation in decades. I urge you to come together to build upon that legislation and pass Governor Wolf's *Restore Pennsylvania* plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Casey, Jr." in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator