January 28, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As we emerge from this extended shutdown and return to a working, stable federal government, the National League of Cities is calling on Congress to not repeat this crisis and to double-down on efforts to address one of our country’s most pressing challenges — rebuilding America’s infrastructure. For our economy and for our future, America’s cities, towns and villages call on our federal leaders to come together in a bipartisan way to pass comprehensive legislation that rebuilds and reimagines America’s infrastructure.

Infrastructure investments are the foundation that connects us as a country, improves the quality of life for our residents, supports jobs for thousands of workers, strengthens our nation’s economic competitiveness, and keeps our communities safe. Unfortunately, the federal partnership for infrastructure investments has eroded over the last two decades, putting America at risk of falling behind on an ever-increasing list of potential hazards that undermine our economy and threaten our standard of living. Today, our transportation network is a knot of congestion and disrepair, our broadband lags behind other countries and families drink from bottled water in the absence of safe tap water. Moving a bipartisan infrastructure package would demonstrate to the country that Congress is focused on delivering results that will improve the daily lives of our constituents.

Cities will continue doing our share, but it is time for Congress to act and rebuild with us. Across the country, much of our infrastructure is at a breaking point. We need a strong federal-local partnership to upgrade the 100-year old leaking pipes, to replace the 50-year old crumbling bridges and to install modern and resilient solutions for the next 100 years.
Congress must prioritize a long-term infrastructure plan early in 2019 that will work holistically to improve our nation’s water, broadband, and transportation systems and create well-paying jobs for our nation’s workforce that will build and maintain these important assets.

As leaders of our cities and the National League of Cities, we are standing strong together with the 19,000 cities, towns and villages across the country to ensure that the federal government understands that infrastructure is our shared priority in 2019. We look forward to working with Congress to quickly move beyond the shutdown and prioritize crafting a comprehensive, bipartisan infrastructure plan that partners with cities like ours and invests in our vision to rebuild and reimagine our nation’s infrastructure. We look forward to meeting with you soon to discuss how we can work together.

Sincerely,

Karen Freeman-Wilson
Mayor, Gary, IN
President, National League of Cities

Joe Buscaino
Councilmember, Los Angeles, CA
First Vice President, National League of Cities

Kathy Maness
Councilmember, Lexington, SC
Second Vice President, National League of Cities

Matt Zone
Councilmember, Cleveland, OH
Immediate Past President, National League of Cities

Clarence E. Anthony
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