

2019 OFFICERS

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Chief Executive Officer/
Executive Director
Clarence E. Anthony

May 30, 2019

The Honorable Tim Kaine
United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
United States House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Mitchell
United States House of Representatives
211 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Langevin
United States House of Representatives
2077 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
United States House of Representatives
400 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Kaine and Portman and Representatives Bonamici, Mitchell, Thompson and Langevin:

On behalf of the National League of Cities, the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 280 million people across the country, thank you for your leadership on the introduction of the Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demand for Skills Act (BUILDS Act). We are pleased to endorse this legislation that would make an important investment in the skills and supports needed by our nation's workforce to meet the growing need of infrastructure sector businesses in cities, towns and villages across America.

Cities own and maintain 55% of road miles, 50% of bridges and 95% of water infrastructure across the country. These aging infrastructure systems are in need of rebuilding and reimagining, which we hope to accomplish through a true federal-local partnership. As Congress continues to consider a broad infrastructure package that would invest in roads, bridges, water and broadband, we thank you for also recognizing that it takes a skilled workforce to build and maintain this critical investment. We cannot invest in the nation's physical infrastructure without simultaneously investing in our human capital infrastructure.

The BUILDS Act provides for critical investment in local partnerships between business, education, human services and the workforce system to ramp-up work-based learning programs in the critical sectors that support a robust infrastructure. We know that across all of these sectors that we have a growing workforce problem. The Departments of Education and Labor project¹ that we will need to increase our infrastructure workforce by 4.6 million workers by 2022 to keep pace with current hiring needs, to say nothing of the even greater need that would result from a significant federal investment. As such, an investment in the skills training necessary to meet this need is critical.

As Congress continues to develop its priorities for an infrastructure package, we will strongly support and encourage passage of the BUILDS Act as a critical component of that investment. We look forward to partnering with you and your colleagues in support of this important work. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Stephanie Martinez-Ruckman, Program Director for Human Development at martinez-ruckman@nlc.org or 202-626-3098 if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clarence E. Anthony', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Clarence E. Anthony
CEO and Executive Director

¹ <https://cte.ed.gov/initiatives/advancing-cte-in-state-and-local-career-pathways-system#collapseOne>