

# North American Concrete Alliance

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October 22, 2019

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2164 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dina Titus  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Economic Development,  
Public Buildings, and Emergency Management  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mark Meadows  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Economic Development,  
Public Buildings, and Emergency Management  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2164 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves and Chairman Titus and Ranking Member Meadows:

The North American Concrete Alliance (NACA) applauds the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management for holding today's hearing on: "An Assessment of Federal Recovery Efforts from Recent Disasters." NACA supports efforts to help states and communities invest in resilient infrastructure that can better resist damage, continue to serve its primary function, and minimize recovery time.

Formed in 2004, NACA is a coalition of twelve concrete and cement-related Associations dedicated to addressing industry-wide priorities in the areas of research, safety, education, economic recovery and government affairs. Cement and concrete manufacturing directly and indirectly employs approximately half a million people; our collective industries contribute approximately \$100 billion to the economy. Our member Associations represent businesses and talented workers in all 50 states. Our members construct America's highways, airports, bridges, ports, underground infrastructure, and buildings across the country.

The 2019 National Climate Assessment found extreme weather events will increasingly disrupt and damage critical infrastructure and property, and the vitality of communities across the country. Catastrophic natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, flooding, extreme snow, and forest fires shorten the life expectancy of the nation's infrastructure. The study found that the U.S. could lose as much as 10 percent of its Gross Domestic Product by the end of the century. The United States had three of the world's costliest disasters in 2018: the Camp Fire in California, Hurricane Michael in Florida, and Hurricane Florence in the Carolinas costing a total of \$46.5 billion.

Much of the nation's built environment is not designed or constructed to withstand more frequent and more devastating events. The federal government spends billions annually on disaster recovery, and more must be done to help states and communities build more resilient infrastructure in the first place. For every dollar invested in pre-disaster mitigation, the nation's infrastructure can save \$8 in future disaster recovery costs.

To protect life and property, Congress has a role in directing infrastructure and buildings to be resilient through a variety of mitigation programs. Resilient construction is infrastructure that, in response to a natural disaster, allows buildings and infrastructure to resist damage, continue to serve their primary function, and minimize the recovery time. As states are building new infrastructure or rebuilding after a disaster, federal infrastructure programs should focus on improving resiliency to better resist damage, continue to serve its primary function, and minimize recovery time. Federal infrastructure legislation should require federal agencies to develop

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guidance regarding the design, construction, maintenance, and repair of infrastructure to resist the impact and recover quickly from disasters. Improving the durability and strength of the nation's infrastructure will provide long-term cost-savings.

NACA also supports federal programs to help build resilient infrastructure, like the Resilience Revolving Loan Fund Act (H.R. 3779). A low-interest loan program will help states invest in projects to reduce the risks and costs associated with natural disasters. A loan program focused on building resilient infrastructure will provide long-term cost savings and is better for the environment because it reduces the likelihood of needing to rebuild.

NACA looks forward to continuing to work with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to advance policies that improve the resiliency of the nation's infrastructure.

Sincerely,

American Concrete Pavement Association  
American Concrete Pipe Association  
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association  
American Concrete Pumping Association  
Concrete Foundations Association  
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute

National Concrete Masonry Association  
National Precast Concrete Association  
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association  
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute  
Portland Cement Association  
Tilt-Up Concrete Association