

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Gary Peters
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rand Paul
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Peters and Graves and Ranking Members Paul and Larsen:

The undersigned organizations urge you to include resilience as a priority for the work of your committees in 2023.

We represent a broad group of leaders from business, conservation, environment, open space, and state and local government. Building smart, modern, resilient infrastructure has been among our top priorities. These suggestions would add value and improve the current recent successes in the resilience and predisaster policy space, from enactment of the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Act and Community Disaster Resilience Zone Act to the resilience provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The following underscore several important issues for your consideration and support:

- Establishing a Chief Resilience Officer at the White House and calling for interagency coordination and development of a national resilience strategy.
- Increasing the portion of postdisaster funding directed for predisaster mitigation purposes, especially in FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program.
- Promoting incentives, including tax credits for individuals and businesses for predisaster mitigation expenses.

We commend your strong support for predisaster mitigation and its value for the American taxpayer with an estimated benefit-cost ratio of up to 6 to 1. Resilience is, simply put, good public policy for the environment and the economy.

Chuck Chaitovitz with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will be in touch with your staff to follow up.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering Companies
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Landscape Architects
BuildStrong Coalition
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
City Parks Alliance
Ecological Restoration Business Association
Interstate Council on Water Policy
Mississippi Rivers Cities and Towns Initiative
National Association of Counties
National League of Cities
National Recreation and Park Association
Precovery Labs
Reinsurance Association of America
Resilience Innovation Hub
Resilience 21 Coalition
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Conference of Mayors

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs

cc: Members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure