



July 9, 2021

Honorable Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support of Federal Infrastructure Bill

Dear Senator Leahy,

On, July 1, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the INVEST Act, H.R. 3684, a \$715 billion proposal that includes the text of H.R. 1915, the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns, on behalf of its 246 member cities and towns, and the Vermont Mayors Coalition, comprising Vermont's eight mayors, want to thank you for your ongoing support of infrastructure investment and urges you to continue those efforts in the Senate. We believe it is vital to build upon the confidence you demonstrated in local governments through passage of the American Rescue Plan Act and its direct aid to local governments. We encourage you to streamline infrastructure investment by directing it to the asset owners at the local level and thereby eliminating circuitous and inefficient bureaucratic processes.

Passage of the House's INVEST Act puts Congress closer to providing for America's infrastructure to be rebuilt. We join the National League of Cities and municipalities around the country in standing ready to rebuild and revitalize our cities, towns, and villages with transportation options that meet twenty-first century needs, safe and reliable water and wastewater services, and reliable high-speed internet service. These are the infrastructure foundations that will allow our municipalities to recover from the pandemic and ensure thriving economies for years to come.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Vermont earned a grade of C in its most recent Infrastructure Report Card. That grade means that our infrastructure is mediocre and requires attention – attention that for years we have been unable to adequately provide, due to the enormous capital investment and ongoing maintenance that are required Vermont's most dire needs according to the ASCE are to invest in drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.

This legislation provides \$592 billion in surface transportation investments and helps address the need to increase funding for water infrastructure, address water workforce development needs, improve resilience to climate change, increase system sustainability, and improve environmental equity for all Americans. Passage of infrastructure legislation will also put people back to work in jobs that pay livable wages.



Thank you for your continued support of local government and for your ongoing advocacy for infrastructure investments. Please contact Public Policy and Advocacy Director Karen Horn (Khorn@vlct.org) or Municipal Policy Advocate Gwynn Zakov (Gzakov@vlct.org) with any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen B. Horn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Karen Horn, Director, Public Policy & Advocacy
Vermont League of Cities and Towns

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristine Lott". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kristine Lott, Mayor, Winooski
for the Vermont Mayors Coalition