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CONSTRUCTION
COALITION**

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**For More Information:
202/289-4434 (ARTBA)
703/548-3118 (AGC)**

February 14, 2019

Dear Senators:

The 31 national associations and construction trade unions of the Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC) strongly urge you to support the final FY 2019 appropriations package being considered in the Senate today. The legislation includes the FY 2019 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies (THUD) spending bill that wisely increases highway and public transit funding above FAST Act authorization levels to develop the nation's transportation infrastructure network and its enhanced flexibility to meet growing needs.

The five-year FAST Act authorization is important to stabilize federal surface transportation investment. We appreciate that this legislation includes the funding that is promised in that law. FAST Act funding levels, however, are projected to barely maintain purchasing power through FY 2020. As such, the additional transportation resources provided in the FY 2019 THUD bill are essential to deliver meaningful improvements in public safety, congestion relief, and maintenance of existing facilities. The \$3.93 billion in additional highway and transit investments will build off the additional spending included in the FY 2018 appropriations law to begin chipping away at our nation's surface transportation infrastructure deficit.

The TCC appreciates that this compromise bill retains the BUILD Grants program and the \$900 million provided for critical multimodal capital grants. Additionally, we strongly support the work appropriators did in this bill to boost airport capital grants by \$500 million. Core Airport Improvement Program funding has been stuck at or below \$3.5 billion since 2006, making this increase a welcome addition for airports of all sizes across the country.

Furthermore, we support the efforts by Congress to continue funding for the transit Capital Investment Grant program - despite the Trump Administration's proposed cuts in these investments. We urge that you encourage the Administration to advance final grant agreements for these critical projects that enhance personal mobility.

The uncertainty in transportation construction marketplaces due to government shutdowns and short-term continuing resolutions is not only harmful to states for project planning purposes but also has negative safety and economic impacts. Without the certainty of a full year obligation of funding, states are forced to scale back project awards, which delays identified safety improvements as well as the alleviation of traffic congestion. Passing the legislation before the Senate today will end the ambiguity and give states their full spending authority for the remainder of FY 2019.

As such, the members of the TCC urge you to support the consolidated appropriations package and thank you for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,

The Transportation Construction Coalition