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June 30, 2021

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I am writing to urge you to support H.R. 3684, the INVEST in America Act, which provides historic and necessary investments to our nation’s surface transportation and water infrastructure programs. I am also urging you to oppose any amendments that would roll back labor protections and undercut the critical investments that the bill provides.

Transportation and infrastructure needs in the country are overwhelming and have been underfunded for much too long. We commute on congested roads with hazardous potholes, over bridges in disrepair, and far too many of us are forced to drink water from leaching lead pipes. AFSCME members who work in highway departments, public transit, waste water and drinking water systems go to work every day to make our communities safer, but their hands have been tied by austerity budgets of the past that fall far short of what is needed to ensure public safety and meet current and future needs.

The \$715 billion investments that would be made by the INVEST in America Act begin to address these problems and create good-paying jobs to rebuild and reimagine America’s surface transportation infrastructure, with investments in roads, bridges, transit, rail, and wastewater and drinking water infrastructure. It would authorize about \$547 billion over five years for surface transportation infrastructure. It also includes major increases for passenger rail, public transit and public safety. The legislation maintains many strong labor protections, such as Davis-Bacon and 13c rights, needed to ensure that upgrades to our infrastructure don’t come at the expense of workers and safety.

AFSCME strongly supports expanding so-called Section 13c labor protections afforded transit workers to other sectors, and we are disappointed that it is not in the current bill. We remain committed to achieving this goal. Additionally, AFSCME is concerned that Section 1110 of the bill doesn’t adequately protect public entities in tolling arrangements. We support adding stronger consumer protections and meeting certain conditions for new agreements under the section. Finally, AFSCME strongly supports Rep. Kaptur’s amendment #132, which “expresses the sense of Congress on the importance of

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worker transition and developing a vision for the electric vehicle transition and the resulting worker disruptions for front-line transit and transportation workers.” We urge you to support this needed amendment.

AFSCME thanks Chairman DeFazio and Chairman Pallone for seizing the opportunity to make unprecedented and much-needed investments in public transportation and water infrastructure and urges passage by the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bailey K. Childers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bailey K. Childers  
Director of Federal Government Affairs

BKC:KUS:hf