

Good afternoon, thank you Mr. Chairman for holding this Member Day Hearing. It is critical now more than ever we continue to discuss our infrastructure needs as a nation. For the past few years, we have heard the term “infrastructure week” time after time, but no action. Today, I am hopeful with this Administration and with this committee in moving legislation forward towards a sustainable investment for the next generation.

I stand in front of the committee to highlight the infrastructure needs of our nation from investing in our water resources infrastructure to high speed rail. It is essential we take an all-of-the-above approach and invest in this diverse amount of infrastructure which continues to connect our nation.

As the representative of California’s 16th District, a place I call home, this district and the region of the San Joaquin Valley serves as California’s infrastructure backbone. My district has diverse needs as it contains infrastructure which conveys our water resources throughout the state, major highways which support the movement of goods and services throughout the state, and lastly, it is home to California’s High Speed Rail project, a first of its kind for our nation.

If we are going to continue towards the path of sustainability as a nation, we must act boldly. We must continue to utilize the benefits of the BUILD Grant to support fixing our highways and roads that serve as major connectors for regions, such as State Route 99 and State Route 41 in my district which both also connect to Interstate 5, a major transportation artery that connects *all* of California.

Climate change continues to intensify droughts in the West with more unpredictable weather patterns that require us to think of “outside-the-box” solutions. That is why I will soon be introducing legislation to ensure access to WIFIA financing for federally-owned, locally ran water infrastructure projects to assist in the much needed upgrades and modernization of water infrastructure projects around our nation.

And lastly, if we are going to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce our global emissions, we must invest in electrified high-speed rail. For too long we have heard the United States is behind when it comes to investing in high-speed rail. Other nations around the world continue to invest in this infrastructure and reap the benefits of regional connectivity and economic opportunity all while reducing

carbon footprints. My legislation, the *High-Speed Rail Corridor Development Act of 2021* builds upon what our nation has already invested towards high-speed rail. This can be a reality for *all* across our nation and help us continue to connect our regions and communities.

I'd like to thank the Chairman again for allowing me to testify today and look forward to working on an infrastructure package for our nation. I yield back.