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July 1, 2021

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Members of Congress:

On behalf of the Aluminum Association and its member companies across the value chain of U.S. aluminum manufacturing, I write to express the industry's support for the *Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation (INVEST) in America Act*.

The U.S. aluminum industry knows that the bold investments the *INVEST in America Act* would make are vital to modernizing our nation's infrastructure. Not only does U.S. aluminum depend on reliable infrastructure to ship billions of pounds of aluminum across the country each year, the metal itself is essential to making these planned investments a reality. Aluminum is fundamental to American infrastructure, supporting aerospace, transportation, construction, the grid, and many other segments of the U.S. economy. It is designated by the U.S. Geological Survey as a [critical mineral](#) and has been [recognized](#) by the Departments of Commerce and Defense as "vital" to national security and a core part of the [Critical Manufacturing Sector](#).

As you know, U.S. car manufacturers have announced plans to transition to an electric vehicle fleet by 2040. The electric vehicle revolution depends on aluminum. National labs have [verified](#) that the properties of aluminum allow for safer, higher performing, more efficient, and cost-effective vehicle construction. Aluminum chassis, shock towers, motor and battery housings, and internal panels allow electric vehicles to travel further, safer. The INVEST in America Act's clean corridors program will catalyze the deployment of charging stations to support private industry's transition to a zero-emissions fleet.

Aluminum is used extensively as a building material in large public transportation building projects, combining incomparable visual aesthetics with a high strength to weight ratio, corrosion resistance and desirable thermal properties – and aluminum's durability means it can serve its function in a building for many decades, reducing maintenance costs. When used for construction, aluminum structures can weigh 35 to 65 percent less than steel while providing comparable strength. Using recycled aluminum can also help qualify a building for green building status under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) framework in part because aluminum components are wholly recyclable. Aluminum is an ideal material to be support the local investments in innovative strategies under the INVEST in America Act's community climate innovation grant program.

Aluminum alloys can be used to build bridges with greater service life expectancy, live load carrying capacity, structure and dead load characteristics, initial and long-term quality, corrosion resistance, ease of maintenance, speed of construction, skid resistance, and safety – making aluminum extremely cost effective when the life cycle of a bridge is considered. Aluminum decks also offer an attractive means of increasing bridge load ratings by reducing the dead load of the bridge itself. Decking solutions can be installed at much lower cost and reduced traffic downtime. The INVEST in America Act's innovative project delivery federal share increase and the overall streamlining of bridge funding will assist our industry in constructing the next generation of American bridges. We also strongly support the INVEST in America Act's efforts to utilize apprenticeship to the maximum extent possible.

The U.S. aluminum industry is proud to support this transformational surface transportation bill that will increase our global competitiveness, facilitate the private sector's transition to zero-emission vehicles, and harness the innovation of American workers in order to bring our infrastructure into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues, in both the House and Senate, toward enactment of significant investments in infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Dobbins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Tom Dobbins  
President & CEO