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June 30, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: AGC Support for H.R. 3684, the *INVEST in America Act*

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America, the largest national commercial construction trade association, representing more than 27,000 firms including America's leading general contractors, specialty contractors, service providers, and suppliers, appreciates congressional efforts to improve the nation's infrastructure. AGC supports H.R. 3684, the *INVEST in America Act*, as a first step towards enacting record-levels of federal investment in America's roads, bridges, transit, passenger rail, and drinking and wastewater infrastructure.

That stated, AGC has serious reservations about some policies the bill includes that would impact the ability to fully capitalize on its capacity to spur economic growth and create jobs. One of our primary concerns is the bill's intention to place restrictions on or exclude eligibilities for expanding highway capacity. AGC fears these restrictions would have a negative economic effect on the roadway construction industry— particularly some small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) construction firms. These small businesses mostly construct new roads and bridges and do not have the financial means necessary to adapt their equipment fleets to a new business model. It is imperative that increased federal investment in the nation's infrastructure create jobs and allow businesses of all sizes to flourish. Additionally, the bill does not include significant provisions to streamline the federal environmental review and permitting processes in ways that reduce administrative redundancies without jeopardizing substantive environmental protections. Americans expect that increased investment in infrastructure will lead to sustainable projects in their communities being completed more expeditiously.

As the legislative process moves forward, improvements are needed to address these policies to sustain AGC's support. Such improvements will only come through a broad, bipartisan and bicameral process. That process will help ensure that federal infrastructure programs and policies address the diverse needs of states and local communities across the country and enhance the likelihood for legislative success.

Again, AGC supports H.R. 3684 to advance record-levels of infrastructure investment through the legislative process. We look forward to working with all Members of Congress to address AGC's concerns and to ensure that the final legislative product garners the bipartisan support needed to be enacted into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Etchen', written in a cursive style.

Alex Etchen
Senior Director, Congressional Relations