May 15, 2019

Leader Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell,

The Kentucky business community urges you to take action to improve the Commonwealth's infrastructure. A foundation of our economy, infrastructure is key to our state and nation fully realizing their economic potential. We call on Congress to adopt a comprehensive infrastructure plan that includes raising the gas tax, encourages the use of public-private partnerships, and streamlines permits for transportation projects.

Kentucky has experienced much economic growth in the past few years. Pro-growth policies endorsed by the Chamber at the federal and state levels have fueled the expansion of industry and creation of jobs in the Commonwealth. It is imperative we support this growth and encourage continued expansion with investment in our infrastructure.

Although Kentucky has identified more than $8 billion in projects as priorities, they have not been funded. Consequently, our state continues to receive poor grades on transportation infrastructure on the American Infrastructure Report Card. These projects include new bridges connecting Kentucky to Ohio and Indiana—projects that are very much in need of federal funds.

Increased revenue for transportation infrastructure is difficult, if not impossible, to find without increasing the gas tax, which has not been raised for more than a quarter of a century. During that time, 42 states have increased their state gas taxes through bipartisan support. Without an increase in the federal gas tax, Kentucky and other states will experience a loss of federal funds.

Kentucky's transportation infrastructure moves $500 billion worth of goods annually and supports the Commonwealth's workforce. The Kentucky business community is doing its part to advance increased infrastructure funding at the state level, but we believe this is something Congress must take up in this 2019 session.

The time to build is now.

Sincerely,

Dave Adkisson
Kentucky Chamber