



May 6, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer and Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for your quick actions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. As you consider additional legislation to financially support workers and businesses, generate economic growth and encourage a robust recovery, the Rebuild Rural Coalition strongly encourages you to include provisions to strengthen our nation's infrastructure, including specific provisions focused on the unique needs of rural communities and food and agriculture sector.

Rebuild Rural is comprised of more than 250 local, state and national organizations from across the country that collectively represent U.S. agricultural producers, cooperatives, rural businesses, rural communities and rural families. We live and work every day in rural America and deeply understand the realities these communities face in order to remain prosperous and vibrant. We also understand that rural communities' needs are unique, oftentimes differing greatly from the realities of our urban counterparts, such as geographic isolation, low-population density, limited institutional capacity and, in some regions, persistent poverty.

Specifically, we believe it is critical to ensure that our rural communities have access to: clean and safe drinking water and wastewater facilities, secure and dependable surface transportation, reliable and affordable power, healthcare, housing, and broadband and research institutions with state-of-the-art facilities, in order to thrive and attract future generations. Many of these needs – including access to broadband and quality healthcare – have become acute in the past several weeks because of COVID-19. Media have reported parents driving students to fast food parking lots for access to Wi-Fi, and the current challenges of rural hospitals which struggled to meet the needs of the communities they serve under normal conditions before this pandemic and the economic viability of rural communities.

As you know, rural communities play an important role in our nation's economy – and arguably an outsized role during this current crisis. They are home to a majority of U.S. manufacturing and our agricultural production. American agriculture provides the food and fiber for our country and the world, creating jobs for millions of Americans. Our farmers and ranchers are the most efficient producers in the world. The supply chain enabling that efficiency has kept food stocked at grocery stores and markets across the country. But the ability to meet these demands depends on robust and reliable transportation infrastructure including roads, inland waterways, ports, and railways and support for the local people and institutions that will ensure this infrastructure is able to meet 21st Century realities. Deteriorating rural infrastructure, however, threatens the competitive leadership of American agriculture.

Rebuild Rural believes any future legislation addressing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic should address the infrastructure needs of our country, and specifically of our rural communities. We also recognize federal resources alone cannot fill the entirety of the need. As organizations serving these rural communities, we are already hard at work doing all that what we can to serve our neighbors during this difficult time, and we recognize fulfilling this promise to our rural residents requires creative solutions that pair federal, state and local investment along with private sources of capital. We stand ready to work with you during these unprecedented times to achieve these objectives in the national interest.

Thank you for your leadership.



Sincerely,

AgLaunch
Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition
AgriSafe
Alabama Farmers Federation
Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives
Alaska Power Association
Alliance for I-69 Texas
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Agri-Women
American Association of Crop Insurers
American Bar Association
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Dairy Coalition
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Farmland Trust
American Feed Industry Association
American Horse Council
American Sheep Industry Association
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
Arkansas Electric Cooperatives
Arkansas Soybean Association
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives
Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives
Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives
Board on Agriculture Assembly of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Bongards Premium Cheese
California Association of Winegrape Growers
California Farm Bureau Federation
Colorado Farm Bureau
Colorado Rural Electric Association
Corn Refiners Association
Council for Affordable & Rural Housing
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau



Crop Insurance Professionals Association
The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina
Empire State Potato Growers, Inc.
Empire State Water Well Drillers' Association
Enterprise Community Partners
Equipment Dealers Association
Farm Credit Council
Farmer Mac
Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.
Federation of Southern Cooperatives Rural Training and Research Center
First District Association
Florida Agri-Women
Florida Electric Cooperatives Association
Florida Farm Bureau
Georgia Electric Membership Corporation
Georgia Farm Bureau
Golden State Power Cooperative
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Great Plains Canola Association
Housing Assistance Council
I-14 / Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition
Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
Idaho Grain Producers Association
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association
Illinois Soybean Association
Indiana Corn Growers Association
Indiana Electric Cooperatives
Indiana Soybean Alliance
Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Intertribal Agriculture Council
Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives
Iowa-Nebraska Equipment Dealers Association
Iowa Soybean Association
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Cooperative Council
Kansas Corn
Kansas Electric Cooperatives



Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Soybean Association
Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives
Kentucky Corn Growers Association
Kentucky Soybean Association
Land O' Lakes, Inc
Louisiana Association of Cooperatives
Louisiana Ground Water Association
Maryland Grain Producers Association
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Bean Shippers
Michigan Electric Cooperative Association
Michigan Farm Bureau
Michigan Soybean Association
Minnesota AgriGrowth Council
Minnesota Corn Growers Association
Minnesota Farmers Union
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
Minnesota Milk Producers Association
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Mississippi Association of Cooperatives
Mississippi Soybean Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Farm Bureau
Missouri Soybean Association
Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
Montana Grain Growers Association
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Counties
National Association of Development Organizations
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Towns and Townships
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Black Growers Council
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Cooperative Business Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives



National Family Farm Coalition
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Grange
National Ground Water Association
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Rural Economic Developers Association
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Rural Health Association
National Rural Housing Coalition
National Rural Lenders Association
National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation
National Rural Water Association
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association
Nebraska Rural Electric Association
Nebraska Soybean Association
Nevada Rural Electric Association
New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation
New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association
New York Corn and Soybean Association
New York Farm Bureau
New York State Agribusiness Associations
New York State Vegetable Growers Association
North American Millers' Association
North American Renderers Association
North Carolina Electric Cooperatives
North Carolina Ground Water Association
North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association
North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives
North Dakota Corn Growers Association
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance
Northeast Association of Electric Cooperatives



Northeast Cooperative Council
NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association
Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing
Ohio Agribusiness Association
Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers
Ohio Dairy Producers Association
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Ohio Pork Council
Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives
Ohio Soybean Association
Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers Association
Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council
Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives
Oklahoma Soybean Association
Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association
Oregon Farm Bureau Federation
Oregon Wheat Growers League
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
Ports-to-Plains Alliance
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association
Rural and Agriculture Council of America
Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural
Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP)
Rural Community College Alliance
Rural Development Leadership Network
SE Minnesota Grain and Feed Dealers
Select Milk Producers, Inc.
South Carolina Fertilizer and AgriChemical Association
South Carolina Peach Council
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives
South Dakota Corn Growers Association
South Dakota Rural Electric Association
South Dakota Soybean Association
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
Soy Transportation Coalition
Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance
State Agriculture and Rural Leaders
Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association
Tennessee Soybean Association



Texas Ag Industries Association
Texas Elective Cooperatives
Texas Grain and Feed Association
Texas Vegetation Management Association
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Dry Bean Council
U.S. Forage Export Council
U.S. Poultry and Egg Association
United Egg Producers
United Fresh Produce Association
USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council
USA Rice
Utah Rural Electric Association
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Beef Industry Council
Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Virginia Cooperative Council
Virginia Farm Bureau
Virginia FFA Association
Virginia Horse Council
Virginia Poultry Federation
Virginia State Dairymen's Association
Virginia Telecommunications Industry Association
Virginia Water Well Association
Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Washington State Potato Commission
Water Systems Council
Water Well Trust
Waterways Council, Inc.
West Virginia Farm Bureau
West Virginia FFA and Agricultural Education
West Virginia Poultry Association
Western Peanut Growers Association
Wisconsin Agri-business Association
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Wisconsin Soybean Association
Women Involved in Farm Economics
WTA - Advocates for Rural Broadband
Wyoming Rural Electric Association
Wyoming Wheat Growers Association