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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 8, 2021

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
2331 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Carbajal:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of H.R. 3864, the *Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act (INVEST in America Act)*.

Thank you for your leadership as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the creation of this legislation to reauthorize federal surface transportation programs. Maintaining local roads to ensure safe and efficient movement of people, goods, and services is critical for public safety and economic development. This legislation will provide needed support for maintaining the existing transportation network that provides the first and last part of every trip.

The bill would also dedicate \$32 billion for bridges in communities of all sizes. Santa Barbara County supports the re-establishment of a federal funding program to repair structurally deficient bridges, and we appreciate your efforts to make that a priority in the drafting of H.R. 3864. The funding included in the bill will be a very significant step towards ensuring needed support for local bridges.

The *Invest in America Act* would also provide support for climate change mitigation and infrastructure resilience that is unprecedented for a transportation bill. The \$4 billion included for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and \$8.3 billion targeted to reduce carbon pollution will greatly help the County meet its emission reduction goals. The \$6.2 billion for mitigation and resiliency improvements is tremendously important for the Santa Barbara region, which has experienced first-hand the impact of increased natural disasters resulting from the climate crisis.

The program funding increases and grant opportunities in H.R. 3864 are sorely needed to meet the transportation challenges we face. Again, thank you for your leadership on this effort.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilcrest
Washington Representative

DWG: awg