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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

August 6, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of approval of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* when it is voted on by the Senate this weekend.

The County supports the maximum possible federal support for responding to the challenges imposed by climate change. This includes the funding in the bill for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, carbon pollution reduction, and the various other funding initiatives that are included for mitigation and resiliency improvements. Climate Change mitigation is of utmost importance for the County, which has experienced first-hand the impact of increased natural disasters resulting from the climate crisis.

The County also supports the reauthorization and expansion of surface transportation programs, including new resources for local bridges and roads and the maximum funding for local maintenance. The bill would expand the current set-aside for off-system bridges and also dedicate \$40 billion for bridge replacement. 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 this legislation.

The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* includes numerous other provisions that would improve and support the County's ability to provide critical services and meet the needs of our community. These include funding for broadband, Army Corps of Engineers projects, clean water/drinking water programs, supplemental funding for watershed protection and water reclamation, and public transportation.

We also request your support for the Padilla-Cornyn amendment to allow recipients of state and local assistance from CARES and the ARP to spend any remaining funds on infrastructure projects. This amendment is in keeping with the County's support for the maximum flexibility for COVID-19 relief funds and would be an effective and efficient way to quickly invest in ready-to-go infrastructure projects.

Thank you for your consideration and your support. We look forward to continuing to work with you on these infrastructure issues as the legislation moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest  
Washington Representative

DWG: awg