



May 3, 2018

The Honorable John Carter, Chairman
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
2006 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 375 East
Washington, DC 20001-2179
(800) 548.ASCE(2723) toll free (202) 789.7850
(202) 789.7859 fax ■ www.ASCE.org

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard:

As you draft Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, we urge you to provide robust funding to the agencies and programs that play a vital role in protecting the nation's public health, welfare, and security. From securing our nation, to responding to disasters or working to mitigate the impact of disasters before they occur, the Department of Homeland Security is critical to ensuring our national security.

ASCE's *2017 Infrastructure Report Card* rated the overall condition of our nation's infrastructure a cumulative grade of "D+." Going forward, we must build smarter and stronger, as well as utilize new approaches, materials, and technologies to ensure our infrastructure is more resilient in order to recover quickly from significant weather and other hazard events.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

ASCE urges Congress to continue its strong support for FEMA by providing **\$4.4 billion for FEMA in FY 2019**. ASCE also strongly supports the **Pre-Disaster Mitigation Disaster Program and urges Congress to provide \$249 million for FY 2019**. This program is a critical tool in helping state and local governments reduce their risk to future hazard events; not only does it fund pragmatic disaster risk management strategies that protect our nation's communities and safeguard infrastructure systems, but it is a prudent use of taxpayer dollars. In fact, a January 2018 National Institute of Building Sciences report found that every \$1 spent in federal government agency hazard mitigation saves the nation \$6 in future disaster costs. ASCE also urges Congress **to provide \$263 million for the Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Assessment (RiskMAP) program**. Furthermore, ASCE requests the following amount for specified FEMA programs:

- **\$9 million** for the FEMA responsibilities under the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program;
- **\$13.9 million** for the National Dam Safety Program; and
- **\$79 million** for the National Levee Safety Program.

Natural and man-made disasters have repeatedly demonstrated the vulnerability of the nation's infrastructure. The United States government needs to continue to address infrastructure vulnerability to make infrastructure more resilient. The federal funding for mitigation, preparedness, research, and standards has been insufficient to provide the resources necessary for mitigating natural and man-made

hazards. Such funding is critical to the health and safety of the nation, its citizens, and to the resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure.

ASCE believes our nation must prioritize the investment needs of infrastructure to ensure public safety, a strong economy, and the protection of our environmental resources. We thank you for your consideration of our funding requests and look forward to working with the Committee to fund these existing successful programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristina Swallow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kristina" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Swallow".

Kristina L. Swallow, P.E., ENV SP, F. ASCE
2018 ASCE President

cc: Representatives Rodney P. Frelinghuysen and Nita Lowey, Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations