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August 16, 2018

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senate
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
U.S. Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cory Booker
U.S. Senate
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Rounds
U.S. Senate
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Whitehouse, Alexander, Booker, and Rounds:

We are writing to express our support for S. 3341, the Innovative Materials for America's Growth & Infrastructure Newly Expanded (IMAGINE) Act, a bill that encourages the research and use of innovative construction materials and techniques in transportation and water infrastructure projects across the nation. Not only does this bill create an interagency Innovative Materials Task Force to assess existing standards for innovative materials, develop new methods, and identify barriers to broader market adoption, but it also dedicates much-needed research funding to help state agencies further develop innovative materials and prioritize resilient infrastructure in rural and coastal areas.

Infrastructure is the foundation that connections the nation's businesses, communities, and people, serves as the backbone to the U.S. economy, and is a vital component of the nation's public health and welfare. However, our nation's infrastructure has been underfunded for decades, and ASCE's *2017 Infrastructure Report Card* gave our nation's overall infrastructure a grade of "D+." Overall, the nation's infrastructure funding gaps comes to \$2 trillion over 10 years. One way to close this investment gap is to improve outcomes through the development of innovative design, materials, construction methodologies, rehabilitation technologies, maintenance procedures, and operation techniques.

ASCE believes that a critical component to raising our nation's infrastructure grade is careful preparation for the needs of the future. This includes the utilization of new approaches, materials, and technologies to ensure our infrastructure is both more resilient and sustainable – that is, the ability to quickly recover from significant weather and other hazard events while reducing impacts on local economies, quality of life, and the environment – as well as the need

to support research and development into innovative materials and processes to modernize and extend the life of infrastructure, reduce life-cycle costs, expedite repairs or replacement, and promote cost savings.

As advocates of innovative and resilient infrastructure, ASCE supports this bill's goal of accelerating the development and deployment of innovative materials and technologies. The IMAGINE Act is an important step in helping our nation achieve an infrastructure system fit for the 21st century. We thank you for your introduction of S. 3341 and welcome the opportunity to work with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Pallasch", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Pallasch
Managing Director, Government Relations & Infrastructure Initiatives