



The Honorable Susan Wild
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dan Meuser
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Malinowski
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 22, 2019

Dear Representatives Cartwright, Malinowski, Meuser and Wild:

On behalf of over 5,000 businesses with more than 200,000 individual workers, I strongly urge you to support legislation regarding infrastructure funding. The inadequate and failing infrastructure systems of today constrain businesses from maximizing commerce.

The Greater Lehigh Valley area is one of the fastest growing industrial markets not just in the United States, but around the globe. The counties that make up our Greater Lehigh Valley region- Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton and Warren- rely heavily on I-78, I-80, I-476, and PA Routes 33, 22, 209 and 248. It is imperative for a bill to pass for their continued economic success.

The infrastructure systems of our region are the arteries that pump our economic stability and continued growth. Fortune 500 companies use our convenient transportation system to their advantage. Take Lehigh County for example, companies such as Air Products, Coca-Cola, B.Braun, Mack Trucks, PPL and many more have provided the Valley great economic growth due to their dependency on our infrastructure.

Six major highways intersect the Greater Lehigh Valley and provide easy access to the Port of Philadelphia, The Port of Newark/Elizabeth Marine Terminal (NJ/NY), the Philadelphia and Newark airports, an abundance of rail systems and easy inter- and intrastate commerce. The Greater Lehigh Valley would not be one of the fastest growing markets if we did not have such an accessible transportation system.

An increase in infrastructure funding will also have a great impact on our workforce at the national, state and local levels. The Lehigh Valley has been instrumental in focusing on career and technical education training and upskilling workers to match with highly technological manufacturing jobs.



Together our counties will have employees already trained, licensed and willing to work once new projects have been implemented through the increased transportation funding.

On behalf of our entire membership, we encourage your support. Revitalizing our infrastructure will raise the quality of life for all Americans, create family sustaining American jobs, and serve as a critical component to maintaining our economic prosperity and competitiveness around the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Eberhardt".

Ralph Eberhardt, P.E., MBA
Chair, Transportation Committee
Lehigh Valley Office Manager
Associate Vice President
Michael Baker International, Inc.
(610)820-4124

The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce's mission is to improve the economy and quality of life in the Lehigh Valley Metropolitan Area. With nearly 5,000 members who employ more than 200,000, the Chamber is the largest in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and in the top seven nationwide.

And our thirty-plus affiliated chambers, councils and committees are On Every Main Street with more than 1,500 community focused volunteers who actively contribute, at the grass roots, to develop and achieve their respective and collective goals.