

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 1, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

As Congress considers developing aid packages to assist our response to the coronavirus and unemployment crisis, we respectfully ask that you include robust funding for workforce training programs that help workers build the skills necessary for restoration and resilience projects in communities across the country. Including this funding is critical to ensuring that workers and communities are able to take advantage of the economic and employment opportunities that could stem from investments in resilient infrastructure projects.

With thousands of businesses closing their doors and millions of Americans losing their jobs as a result of the coronavirus crisis in the last few months alone, it is imperative that Congress take action to support workers and help them build the skills to find employment opportunities. In doing this, Congress can also make a considerable investment in strengthening and adapting our infrastructure in communities hard hit by severe weather, flooding and environmental degradation. Making investments in resiliency now will also reduce federal disaster spending in the future.

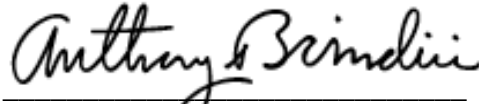
By providing funding for workforce training initiatives at the Corporation for National and Community Service and programs within the Department of Labor (DOL), Forest Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), considerable headway can be made to help Americans access high-paying jobs in restoration and resilience. The Corporation for National and Community Service supports 75,000 AmeriCorps members that serve communities to restore ecosystems, manage forests and enhance the resilience of communities after natural disasters. The Job Corps program maintained by the DOL and Forest Service helps build vocational skills in individuals while assisting in restoring our public spaces and assisting in disaster response. At NOAA, the Coastal Conservation Corps and Veteran Conservation Corps recruit, train, mentor and employ young adults and veterans to support coastal habitat restoration projects in their communities. Lastly, the NIEHS Environmental Career Worker Training program supports improving equity in opportunity for disadvantaged and underrepresented minority workers and provides pre-employment assistance in the environmental restoration and emergency response fields.

Congress has an opportunity now to invest in our nation's workforce while also supporting the critical infrastructure projects that are so badly needed in struggling communities across the country. We appreciate your consideration of this request and urge you to take action now to support American workers.

Sincerely,



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Susan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress

Elaine Luria
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Adam Smith
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Rick Larsen
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Joe Cunningham
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