



August 7, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell:

I write to share the National Retail Federation's support for H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The retail industry, which relies heavily on the nation's transportation infrastructure, strongly believes investment in the infrastructure system is an essential need.

Please note that NRF will consider votes for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and related amendments as part of the Retail Opportunity Index for our voting scorecard.

NRF, the world's largest retail trade association, passionately advocates for the people, brands, policies and ideas that help retail thrive. From its headquarters in Washington, D.C., NRF empowers the industry that powers the economy. Retail is the nation's largest private-sector employer, contributing \$3.9 trillion to annual GDP and supporting one in four U.S. jobs — 52 million working Americans. For over a century, NRF has been a voice for every retailer and every retail job, educating, inspiring and communicating the powerful impact retail has on local communities and global economies.

U.S. retailers are among the country's largest shippers, moving hundreds of billions of dollars in merchandise through their supply chains, using America's transportation infrastructure — its seaports, airports, rail lines and highways. The condition of the U.S. freight transportation system is vital to American competitiveness, and especially the retail industry, which must be able to deliver goods to the consumer at bricks-and-mortar stores or through direct-to-consumer options. Unfortunately, the current state of the transportation system and the supply chains that run through it are facing heightened challenges and disruptions due to the lack of investment and inefficiencies.

H.R. 3684 would address the decades of underinvestment in the nation's freight infrastructure — particularly segments such as highways that rely on public funding. The inclusion of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act and the Surface Transportation Investment Act, as well as funding for new service and repairs for freight rail, is critical for the transport of goods and delivery to consumers. In addition, funding for the deployment and improved access of broadband is vital as digital goods and services are intrinsically woven into the future of retail. The focus on sustainability efforts is also encouraging. Provisions such as the

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grant program for electric vehicle charging, reduction of carbon emissions and improving community resilience are consistent with retailers' efforts to reduce their Scope-III emissions and other sustainability priorities. Other provisions, including the truck driver apprentice pilot program, port modernization to address massive congestion issues, the creation of an Office of Multimodal Freight Transportation and supply chain impact studies will be beneficial to retailers both now and in the future.

We applaud Congress for its efforts to improve the nation's infrastructure and address its long-term needs through H.R. 3684, which provides the largest investment in infrastructure in decades. A modernized and expanded infrastructure system is vital to American businesses, workers, consumers and global economic competitiveness. For these reasons, NRF urges members to vote "Yea" on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David French".

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations

cc: Members of United States Senate