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February 27, 2014

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for highlighting the need to invest in the backlog of deficient bridges across the country with the introduction of S. 2063, the Strengthen and Fortify Existing (SAFE) Bridges Act.

As we highlighted in *The Fix We're In For: The State of Our Nation's Bridges 2013* one in nine bridges – 66,503 bridges – nationwide remain structurally deficient. Laid end to end, all the deficient bridges would span from Washington, DC to Denver, CO – more than 1,500 miles.

We currently under invest in transportation and are falling further behind as our system continues to age. The average age of bridges is 47 years, only 3 years short of the 50-year design lifespan of most bridges. The \$2.75 billion authorized annually by the SAFE Bridges Act will help to rehabilitate and reconstruct aging structurally deficient bridges across the country.

We are happy to see the SAFE Bridges Act highlight the importance of dedicated funding for bridge repair. While the states have made significant progress in improving their bridge conditions since 1992, advancement has significantly slowed. In fact, the rate of improvement during the last four years is 1/3 of the rate from 1992 to 1995.

We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation that will take essential steps to address our nation's backlog of deficient bridges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JAC", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

James Corless
Director