Dear ABC:

I am reaching out to strongly urge you to consider co-sponsoring H.R. 5735, the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act. This bill is of critical importance to every state as it would provide them with significant new flexibilities to spend the federal COVID-19 aid received under the American Rescue Plan on surface transportation infrastructure, disaster mitigation, and emergency response. Allowable uses are currently limited to water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. Flexibility in using these funds is vital as states work to recover from the widespread ongoing impacts the global pandemic has had and is still having within their communities.

As I am sure you saw last month, the U.S. Senate approved the bill by unanimous consent—the clearest indication of the strong bipartisan support for the bill. Further, while the bill already has dozens of co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle, we want to make sure you join them in order to ensure the bill’s immediate passage given how important it is to assist state, local and tribal governments in their recoveries.

I, along with many of my colleagues across the nation, look forward to the additional flexibility states will have with the passage of this bill. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns, and I’d be more than happy to talk them through with you.

Sincerely,