June 24, 2015

The Honorable James Inhofe  The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building 456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Boxer:

The Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI) is one of our nation’s oldest technical institutes and a Standards Developing Organization (SDO) and I write on behalf of our 1,700 members in support of the Environment and Public Works Committee passage of the Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy Act (DRIVE Act). We commend you and the committee for advancing a six-year surface transportation reauthorization framework. CRSI is encouraged by this bipartisan effort and will continue to urge passage of a robust transportation bill by Congress.

CRSI is recognized as the authoritative resource for steel reinforced concrete construction. Members include some of the country’s largest steel mills, fabricators, material suppliers and placers of steel reinforcing bars and related products. Our membership is also involved in the research, design, and construction of structures and pavements. All together, they form the backbone of the steel reinforced concrete industry spanning our nation that relies heavily on surface transportation.

Lack of a long-term transportation authorization at sufficient levels of funding impacts not only our industry, but also every business that relies on a well built and maintained transportation system. The increase in funding levels that your bill calls for is necessary and welcomed. We thank you for recognizing this and making investment above current funding a priority.

Again, we applaud you for this long-awaited multi-year authorization and thank you for your continued leadership in this critical contribution to America’s economic growth.

Very sincerely,

David McDonald, PhD, PE, FACI
Interim President