

July 29, 2021

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senators:

On behalf of the Aluminum Association and its member companies across the value chain of U.S. aluminum manufacturing, I write to express the industry's strong support for yesterday's historic bipartisan infrastructure framework.

The U.S. aluminum industry and its leaders know that this once-in-a-generation infrastructure investment will make our nation more resilient, our climate cleaner, and our economy more competitive. As one of only eight critical mineral commodities recognized by the federal government as essential to all sectors of the U.S. economy, this bipartisan investment will depend on aluminum. The bipartisan package will make our nation more sustainable by including historic investments in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, innovative aluminum bridge funding, investments in solar power, an unprecedented investment in our grid's transmission lines, making our buildings more efficient, and a down payment on the circular economy through recycling.

As you know, this bipartisan deal supports the market-based transition to an electric vehicle fleet that U.S. car manufacturers will be completing by 2040. National labs have verified that the properties of aluminum allow for safer, higher-performing, more efficient and cost-effective vehicle construction. Aluminum chassis, shock towers, motor and battery housings, and internal panels allow electric vehicles to travel further, safer. Aluminum is also a key component of the charging networks that allow these vehicles to refuel.

Bipartisan investment in bridge rehabilitation and construction is essential with 45,000 of our nation's bridges being in poor condition. Our industry has developed aluminum alloys that allow for reduced maintenance and a greater service lifespan at a cheaper cost over the entire life cycle of a bridge. Aluminum decks also offer an attractive means of increasing bridge load ratings by reducing the dead load of the bridge itself during rehabilitation. These solutions can be installed at a much lower cost and reduced traffic downtime. The \$40 billion of new bridge funding is vital to our industry building our nation's bridges back better.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) recently recognized solar photovoltaics as the cheapest form of energy, and the aluminum industry recognizes the pivotal moment for innovation in generating power that Congress now stands ready to address. More than 85 percent of solar photovoltaic components are made from aluminum, and the U.S. aluminum industry is ready to support the framework's investments in clean power generation across the nation. We also understand that for a true clean energy transition, energy will have to be transmitted from the point of generation to where it is needed. With a better conductivity-to-weight ratio than copper

and significant economic benefits, aluminum has been the material of choice in wiring power grids for decades, including high-voltage, long-distance power transmission lines as well as local power distribution systems. We recognize that \$73 billion represents the largest electricity transmission investment in our nation's history.

Aluminum is used extensively as a building material in large public transportation building projects, combining incomparable visual aesthetics with a high strength to weight ratio, corrosion resistance, and desirable thermal properties – and aluminum's durability means it can serve its function in a building for many decades, reducing maintenance costs. When used for construction, aluminum structures can weigh substantially less than steel while providing comparable strength. The investments this bipartisan deal would make in the sustainability of our nation's airports and bus terminals would depend on aluminum's attributes to qualify for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification and optimize the life cycles of the buildings themselves.

Finally, as a founding member of the Recycling Infrastructure Now Coalition and as producers of a critical mineral, the Association and its members strongly support the down payment on our nation's circular economy that this bipartisan deal represents. From the DOE critical mineral recycling pilot program to the EPA's recycling education program, all investments in our recycling system help to decrease our energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and return a valuable feedstock to our members for use in new products. Unfortunately, our nation still needs investment in its recycling infrastructure at the materials recovery facility level. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure that this down payment is put to good use by modernizing the infrastructure it supports.

The U.S. aluminum industry is proud to support this once-in-a-generation opportunity that will increase our global competitiveness, harness the innovation of American workers in order to bring our infrastructure into the 21st century, and provide the nation a more sustainable future. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues, in both the House and Senate, toward enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom Dobbins".

Tom Dobbins
President & CEO