

## United States Senate

June 20, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer:

I welcome the opportunity to get meaningful work done during the extended August session, and I urge you to use this valuable time to draft and hold a vote on a bill that would invest in Montana's and our nation's economy.

As noted in my March 2018 letter, it is urgent that we address our aging infrastructure. We are living off our grandparents' investment in infrastructure, and with each passing day it becomes more difficult to compete in a global economy with outdated schools, roads, bridges, drinking water systems, and access to high-speed internet—especially in rural states like Montana.

Every week when I meet with Montanans face to face, I hear about the need to make responsible investments in rural America. For example, Beaverhead County looks to make long-deferred repairs to its schools; Custer County battles the threat of catastrophic flooding and Rocky Mountain tribal leaders are in need of better local health care facilities.

Modern and dependable infrastructure provides a critical foundation for a growing economy, and will help propel our nation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A smart and responsible investment in infrastructure will build up our economy, allowing businesses to create new and better jobs. While recent appropriations offer incremental progress, a long-term bill is essential if we are to move beyond Band-Aid solutions.

I was disheartened to hear the Majority Whip suggest earlier this year that the Senate may not "have time to get to" a much-needed discussion about infrastructure. Our additional worktime in August will eliminate any excuse. I urge you to direct the Senate to craft legislation we can consider and vote on in the weeks ahead that will address today's pressing infrastructure challenges. Congress must not waste one more minute of time or squander the month of August playing politics. I am ready to roll up my sleeves and work with anyone in Congress to write an infrastructure bill that our nation can be proud of. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester