

YOUR NAME
YOUR ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP

DATE

NAME OF MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
XXX House Office Building
Washington, DC 200XX

Dear Representative NAME:

As a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and a constituent of your district, I write to you today urge your support for the bipartisan infrastructure bill. Recently passed by the Senate, the bill is a historic investment in the country, and specifically Indian Country, where \$11 billion is dedicated to tribes.

Cherokee Nation is one of the largest federally recognized Indian tribes in the United States, with more than 400,000 citizens across the country and spanning more than 7,000 miles across northeastern Oklahoma. The federal government maintains a trust and treaty responsibility for Indian tribes, a responsibility assumed by the United States in exchange for millions of acres of land. The infrastructure bill would, in part, help fulfill the federal government's responsibility to Indian tribes.

Indian tribes are proven good stewards of federal dollars, often combining tribal and federal dollars to maximize their impact in some of our nation's most rural communities. The legislation includes \$3 billion to the TTP, \$3.5 billion for the Indian Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction program, and \$2 billion to assist tribes with deploying broadband in rural and underserved areas. These investments would make transformational impacts in tribal communities.

Cherokee Nation is committed to strengthening the region's economy through infrastructure investment. In 2019, Cherokee Nation passed the Career Readiness Act, which doubled our investment in workforce development and training. Cherokee Nation has also invested millions of dollars to bring connectivity and broadband access to communities who have been hit hardest by the pandemic.

Earlier this year, Cherokee Nation also passed the Wilma P. Mankiller and Charlie Soap Water Act, which injected new funding to eliminate barriers to clean water access across our reservation. The Cherokee Nation spends about \$14 million annually from the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP), and invested an additional \$4.8 million of tribal dollars to pave 67 miles of roadway in fiscal year 2020 and \$1.7 million to pave 49 miles of roadway so far in fiscal year 2021.

I ask that you support the infrastructure bill, and I urge Congress to move quickly to advance this priority. Thank you for your ongoing support for Indian Country.

Sincerely,

NAME