



The Honorable Tom Cole
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307, The Capitol
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack
U.S. House of Representatives
2412 Rayburn House Office Building
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
U.S. House of Representatives
274 Cannon House Office Building
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 23, 2025

Dear Subcommittee Chair Womack, Subcommittee Ranking Member Clyburn, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

For decades, the Committee on Appropriations has acted to fund infrastructure programs and ensure the safety of the United States' transportation systems. The New Democrat Coalition shares your commitment to infrastructure that meets the needs of the American people and recognizes that innovative policies can save federal dollars and improve project efficiency. One such change, a "Dig Once" policy, reduces disruptions and minimizes costs.

Dig Once policy is rooted in the need to promote more efficient use of taxpayer dollars. By coordinating the installation of multiple utilities during a single construction or infrastructure project, such as broadband cables, electrical lines, and water systems, the policy eliminates the need for repeated excavations, which are not only costly but also cause significant disruption to communities. The policy encourages collaboration between federal, state, and local governments, as well as private-sector partners, ensuring that infrastructure investments are maximized and that future costs and environmental impacts are minimized.

In support of such a policy, we ask that the Committee include the following language in the Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill:

The Committee directs the Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other relevant agencies to implement a Dig Once policy across all future grant opportunities and infrastructure projects involving excavation or roadwork. This policy mandates that, when feasible, agencies coordinate the installation of additional utilities—such as broadband, electrical cables, and water lines—during the initial phases of construction. By doing so, the policy will reduce the need for future excavations, minimizing disruptions to communities, reducing long-term costs, and improving infrastructure efficiency.

Americans everywhere deserve efficient and safe transportation projects from groundbreaking to widescale use. We hope the Committee will support this commonsense policy to ensure greater utility of federal funds, shortened construction timeframes, and minimized disruption to communities.

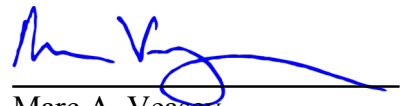
Sincerely,



Norma J. Torres
Chair, New Democrat
Coalition
Housing, Infrastructure &
Transportation Working
Group



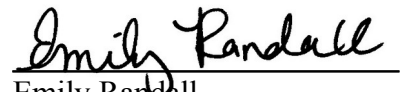
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress




Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress