



January 29, 2020

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman, House Committee on Ways & Means
2309 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Neal:

The American Securities Association (ASA)¹ appreciates the Committee for holding today's important hearing on funding and financing infrastructure investments in America.

ASA members employ public finance professionals who specialize in helping state and local governments raise capital to build and maintain essential infrastructure in the communities they serve. From some of the nation's largest states, cities, and counties to rural school districts and small towns, our members work with public agencies to develop and implement financing strategies allowing them to operate and optimize the important work they do. ASA members have underwritten billions of dollars' worth of projects and have the capacity and expertise to obtain and provide the financing necessary to implement an infrastructure plan for America.

ASA believes infrastructure projects directly benefit society by improving the income, productivity, and welfare of all Americans. New investments are now needed to modernize our nation's infrastructure and repair our roads, bridges, and waterways. Approving the bipartisan GAIN Act (H.R. 6104), which would fund infrastructure investments like those mentioned above as well as new hospitals and schools in distressed urban and rural communities living below the poverty line, would be a very smart way to begin this conversation.

ASA also strongly supports the continued use of municipal bonds as a critical source of financing for infrastructure, affordable housing, and economic development. These bonds allow state and local governments to harness the expertise of the private sector to undertake public projects. They finance airports, ports, redevelopment agencies, affordable housing bonds, waste disposal facilities, and sewage treatment facilities, among other things. A thriving municipal bond market is good for all Americans.

¹ The ASA is a trade association that represents the retail and institutional capital markets interests of regional financial services firms who provide Main Street businesses with access to capital and advise hardworking Americans how to create and preserve wealth. The ASA's mission is to promote trust and confidence among investors, facilitate capital formation, and support efficient and competitively balanced capital markets. This mission advances financial independence, stimulates job creation, and increases prosperity. The ASA has a geographically diverse membership base that spans the Heartland, Southwest, Southeast, Atlantic, and Pacific Northwest regions of the United States.



While we support an infrastructure plan, we strongly oppose the creation of an infrastructure bank. This bank would be captured by Wall Street elites and transfer the decision-making and financing of local projects to Washington D.C. instead of dispersing it throughout the country, where it belongs.

We look forward to being a helpful partner to the Committee and we thank you for your leadership on a public policy issue that is so crucial to the improvement of the lives of all Americans across our great country.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Iacovella

Christopher A. Iacovella
Chief Executive Officer
American Securities Association