

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1803

March 30, 2021

Governor John Bel Edwards
Office of the Governor
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Governor Edwards,

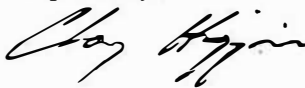
Sir, I urge you to utilize federal funding from the latest COVID-19 package to address Louisiana's infrastructure backlog. While our state moves forward from the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of billions of dollars in industrial and economic activity rely on infrastructure upgrades. With strategic investments in new and existing infrastructure, Louisiana can become the epicenter of national economic prosperity.

As you know, the package passed by Congress and signed into law on March 11, 2021, provides Louisiana with over \$5 billion in discretionary funding. While it would be fiscally irresponsible to allocate these funds toward recurring expenses, Louisiana has an excellent opportunity to begin addressing our \$15 billion backlog in infrastructure improvements.

I appreciate your administration's past efforts on this issue, especially that of Secretary Shawn Wilson. We have an unprecedented opportunity to invest in the I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge in Lake Charles, the I-49 Connector in Lafayette, and the I-10 Mississippi River Bridge in Baton Rouge. The completion of essential I-10 corridor infrastructure is long overdue and would deliver a significant win for both Louisiana and the nation. All of these projects would provide tremendous economic benefits to South Louisiana, creating new jobs and supporting industry growth. Safe, modern, and reliable infrastructure is required for Louisiana to reach its full economic potential. We should capitalize on this moment and wisely invest these federal dollars into projects that promote future economic prosperity for Louisiana.

I stand ready to assist the State as it deals with any federal issues, and I urge you to prioritize Louisiana's infrastructure needs as you determine how the State will use this funding.

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress