



# ROOFING DAY IN D.C.

## 2019

### Support a Robust Buildings Component in Infrastructure Legislation

One of the most effective ways to sustain strong economic growth is through making needed investments in buildings, roads, bridges and other public infrastructure. The roofing industry urges Congress to work on a bipartisan basis to approve legislation that provides for improvements to our aging and overburdened public building infrastructure in a fiscally responsible manner.

Buildings should be given parity in funding and incentives for any broad infrastructure package considered by Congress in 2019. Infrastructure legislation should recognize the role of the built environment, which includes elements that are critical to our communities, such as schools, airports, hospitals, federal buildings and other public buildings, etc. It should further recognize the role of roof system design and installation in terms of building functionality, resiliency, sustainability and energy efficiency. Infrastructure investments should be evaluated based on a life-cycle cost-effectiveness analysis and ensure best practices and consensus building codes and standards are implemented to deliver maximum value to building owners and taxpayers. Quality assurance for public buildings would include professional design with quality materials, carefully vetted installers and commitment by owners to properly maintain and care for the building asset.

The roofing industry supports **The Public Buildings Renewal Act** (H.R. 1251) as a component of broader infrastructure legislation. H.R. 1251 is a bipartisan bill proposed by Reps. Blumenauer (D-Ore.) and Kelly (R-Pa.) to provide new financing options for improvements to public buildings. Once enacted, this bill will spur private investment in public building infrastructure that is in desperate need of upgrading through an expansion of public-private partnerships, which have been critical as a means of delivering projects on time, on budget and with greater value to taxpayers. Currently, the use of public-private partnerships for public infrastructure is limited because, unlike the transportation sector, buildings are not eligible for tax-exempt facility bonds. This inequity prevents public building public-private partnerships from combining tax exempt financing with private financing, resulting in an increased cost of financing.

The average public school building is at least 40 years old, and the current backlog of maintenance and capital projects adds up to a \$45 billion funding gap annually. This need for upgraded schools and other public buildings is not being met, and Congress must take action to address this problem. If passed, H.R. 1251 (and companion legislation soon to be introduced in the Senate) will catalyze the use of private investment to rebuild rapidly deteriorating public buildings. We urge members of Congress to co-sponsor this bipartisan legislation and urge that it be included as a component of a broader infrastructure package considered by Congress in 2019.

Finally, it is crucial infrastructure legislation include provisions to enhance workforce skills and STEM education training to provide employers with the workforce necessary to make infrastructure investments a reality.

**Request: Support the inclusion of public buildings in broad infrastructure legislation and co-sponsor H.R. 1251 to encourage needed investments in our nation's infrastructure.**

**Questions? Contact NRCA's Washington, D.C., office at (202) 546-7584 or (800) 338-5765.**

