



Petition to Build America

The United States of America, once a nation that put a man on the moon, can no longer be assured of crossing the Mississippi River safely, of protecting its citizens from failing dams or levees or of providing a transportation infrastructure that works.

- *Americans spend 3.5 billion hours a year stuck in traffic on our highways, which due to years of neglect now require \$94 billion a year in maintenance and improvement costs alone - more than double what is currently allocated, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers.*
- *At least 31 percent of our country's bridges are structurally deficient leading to tragedies such as the I-35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis.*
- *Approximately \$30 billion is needed to renovate, repair and build new classrooms in our public schools.*
- *Across America there are 3,500 unsafe dams and 50 percent of waterway locks are functionally obsolete leading to deadly breaches such as what occurred in New Orleans.*
- *Upgrades to the nation's electric transmission system are occurring at only a third of the rate of increased demand, according to the Consumer Energy Council of America. To increase domestic energy production by just 30 percent, our nation will have to invest in biofuel refineries, wind turbines, ethanol production and clean coal technologies.*
- *Air traffic is expected to increase by 25 percent within seven years, requiring additional runways, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.*
- *Demand for railway shipping is expected to increase 50 percent in the next 12 years, far outstripping our nation's current rail capacity and threatening to divert rail shipping to our already congested highway system.*

Robust investment in America's schools, energy sources, and transportation is urgently needed. America must maintain its current infrastructure, but also improve it and plan for the future so our nation's schools, roads, bridges, power-plants, railroads, and airports keep America strong.

For the sake of America's competitive place in the world, for our economy and good jobs, in order to reverse the downward slide in our lifestyles and as an investment for future generations, I urge elected officials to redirect our nation's resources to rebuilding America.

