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TOM O'HALLERAN
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I am pleased that President Biden is planning to pursue an expansive infrastructure package in the coming months. Providing clean drinking water, rebuilding our nation's roads, ensuring all Americans have access to high-speed broadband, investing in our aging energy systems, and rebuilding our health care infrastructure are essential to ensuring American competitiveness throughout the 21st century, especially as our communities recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

An infrastructure package must address the needs of rural America. For far too long, Arizona's rural communities have fallen further behind their urban and suburban counterparts, and this package must allow our rural constituencies to compete in the future.

To that end, I strongly support legislation that provides robust funding for high-speed broadband to rural America. This will be accomplished by incorporating the germane language from the *LIFT America Act* (H.R. 1848) and the *Accessible, Affordable Internet for All* (H.R. 1783) that would provide \$80 billion to fund the deployment of secure and resilient high-speed broadband to expand access nationwide internet connections in unserved and underserved areas.

Additionally, I respectfully request your assistance in advancing three pieces of my legislation to help rural and Tribal communities that need significant infrastructure investments. These are:

- H.R. 1939, legislation that would provide \$2.6 billion in funding to the Indian Health Service (IHS) Sanitation Facilities Construction Program to construct and improve critical sanitation projects across Indian Country, including providing clean water to communities *for the first time*.
- H.R. 2245, the *NEW PROMISE Act*, a \$1.25 billion proposal that provides support for communities that are experiencing the closure of coal-fired power plants, including workforce training, infrastructure investments, and replacement revenues for communities.

- \$600 million in funding for a rural and Tribal road safety grant program, with a \$100 million Tribal set-aside, to support safety projects on high-risk rural roads, which face fatality rates 2.5 times higher than urban roads and rebuild rural and Tribal surface infrastructure.

Thank you for your steadfast leadership on these important issues, and I look forward to working with you to ensure that rural and Tribal communities see these much-needed benefits in the upcoming transportation and infrastructure legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom O'Halleran". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress