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## NATIONAL STEEL BRIDGE ALLIANCE

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A Division of the American Institute of Steel Construction

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June 17, 2013

The Honorable Nick Rahall  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2163 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rahall,

I am writing to express the strong support of the National Steel Bridge Alliance for the Strengthen and Fortify Existing Bridges Act (SAFE Bridges Act) which will create a targeted program to help states meet the critical challenge of America's structurally deficient and functionally obsolete bridges.

The recent collapse of the I-5 bridge across the Skagit River in Washington, while apparently caused by damage from an oversized vehicle, has again placed our nation's focus on the enormous number of structurally deficient or functionally obsolete bridges in America and the lack of resources available to invest in bringing them up to current standards. The U.S. Department of Transportation in their most recent Conditions and Performance Report identified a backlog of \$121.2 billion of deficient bridges, far exceeding the resources available to states under current highway programs. The SAFE Bridges Act would authorize \$2.75 billion in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 to be distributed to states to accelerate their bridge rehabilitation and replacement programs. We cannot afford a reactive bridge infrastructure policy which only focuses resources in response to disasters. We must invest now to ensure bridge safety and functionality so that we can efficiently move people, goods, and services and strengthen our economy.

The National Steel Bridge Alliance and our members strongly support your work and leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you to help enact the SAFE Bridges Act into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger E. Ferch".

Roger E. Ferch  
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