

May 12, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Leader Jeffries, and Leader Schumer:

The American Society of Civil Engineers represents more than 160,000 members advancing the civil engineering profession. Our members dedicate their lives to planning and designing 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure systems and developing codes and standards to ensure the resiliency and sustainability of infrastructure. This is only possible through access to the best available science and data, including accurate, up to date assessment of climate change and its impacts. The Congressionally mandated National Climate Assessment (NCA) is a critical tool used by stakeholders- including civil engineers- to make decisions about policies and strategies related to infrastructure project development, disaster mitigation, and economic development. We write to urge Congress to uphold federal law and ensure that the next NCA moves forward on schedule.

The NCA, produced roughly every four years by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), provides a detailed analysis of how the effects of climate change impact public health, national security, and economic development. The NCA is a significant undertaking produced by hundreds of scientific experts and is thoroughly reviewed by 14 federal agencies. In 2023, the fifth NCA found that extreme shifts in weather brought on by climate change affected communities nationwide, and that those threats would continue to grow in the coming years without further mitigation efforts.<sup>1</sup> On April 28, 2025, it was reported that nearly 400 scientists working on the sixth NCA, scheduled to be released by 2028, have been dismissed.<sup>2</sup> This followed earlier reports of the termination of a contract with ICF International, a global consulting firm which provides a significant number of technical support staff to USGCRP to produce the NCA.<sup>3</sup> These actions could hamper the ability of the federal government to

<sup>1</sup> <https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/trump-administration-dismisses-all-authors-key-climate-report-email-says-2025-04-28/>

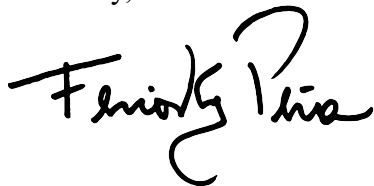
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/white-house-moves-hamstring-national-climate-assessment-2025-04-10/>

effectively assess the impact of climate change on the United States and undermine the development of resilient infrastructure.

This year, ASCE released its 2025 *Report Card for America's Infrastructure*, giving the nation's infrastructure an overall grade of "C". One of the key trends identified by ASCE is that the aging infrastructure is "increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters and extreme weather events, creating unexpected and often avoidable risks to public safety and the economy."<sup>4</sup> Civil engineers are able to design modern infrastructure systems capable of withstanding the effects of increasingly severe wind and rainstorms, historic drought conditions, and dramatic shifts in temperature. This allows for more careful and sustainable investment in systems that will remain standing in the years to come, despite more challenging conditions. However, this is only possible when there is a clear understanding of current conditions and their future impacts. Without that, systems designed for current conditions will have a shorter design life and require at the very least increasing maintenance and rehabilitation, if not complete redesign and rebuild. Effective assessment of climate conditions ensures that infrastructure systems provide valuable service for years to come and support smart, prudent investment of tax dollars.

We thank you for your attention to this critical issue and are ready to work with you to ensure the sixth National Climate Assessment remains on schedule for release by 2028. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact Matthew McGinn ([mmcginn@asce.org](mailto:mmcginn@asce.org)) with ASCE's Government Relations team.

Sincerely,



Feniosky Peña-Mora, Sc.D., P.E., NAS, CCM, F.CIOB, NAC, Dist.M.ASCE  
President  
American Society of Civil Engineers



Thomas W. Smith III, CAE, ENV SP, NAC, F.ASCE  
Executive Director  
American Society of Civil Engineers

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<sup>4</sup> <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Full-Report-2025-Natl-IRC-WEB.pdf>