

REBUILD WITH PURPOSE

Why Fiscal Health, Resilience, Workforce, & Digitalization (FRWD) Matter For American Infrastructure

Investing in America's infrastructure is always an optimistic choice. It reflects a collective belief that we, the people, can pool our resources together to **grow** our businesses, to **improve** our quality of life, and **protect** our environment for the generations to follow.

THE UNITED STATES WAS BUILT FOR OPTIMISTIC CHOICES. IT'S TIME TO REBUILD.

But we also must build with a greater purpose. To keep our economy competitive—from thriving **manufacturing, agriculture, and service industries** to maintaining our high quality of life—federal leaders must respond to the transformative challenges of our time.

A **sweeping infrastructure vision** has the power to simultaneously deliver environmental resilience, harness the digital transformation, retrain American workers, and reinforce fiscal health for generations to come.

Americans are ready for a grand reimagining of and reinvestment in our infrastructure—to revitalize the transportation, water, energy, and broadband systems that make our economy go.

Redefining Infrastructure.

THE TIME TO ACT ON INFRASTRUCTURE IS NOW. We must understand how to seize this moment and make the right kinds of transformational investments.

Equipment manufacturers are leading the way in advancing a forward-looking vision for U.S. infrastructure that will help us respond to our country's biggest challenges in ways that improve the quality of life for all Americans, reinforce our global economic standing, and protect our planet. **Rebuild With Purpose: An Affirmative Vision for 21st Century American Infrastructure**, a groundbreaking report by the Brookings Institution, made possible with vital funding provided by the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, identifies four key levers for action to solve today's challenges and capture future opportunities: Fiscal Health, Resilience, Workforce, and Digitalization (FRWD).

Let's move FRWD on infrastructure.



MAINTENANCE GAP

FISCAL HEALTH

The country cannot modernize infrastructure systems if state and local governments do not have the fiscal resources they need.

The U.S. lags behind its global peers in infrastructure spending. Many states spend below 1% of annual expenditures on deferred maintenance, leaving an estimated **\$873 billion** maintenance gap in state capital budgeting.

Federal policymakers must help states and localities overcome many ongoing fiscal barriers.



RESILIENCE

Equipment manufacturers are leading the way in creating a more resilient economy.

The planet's worsening climate crisis requires a resilient built environment to protect and empower communities. Increasingly extreme weather patterns, resource scarcity, and more frequent and catastrophic disasters need infrastructure solutions.

We need policymakers to support policies that **modernize our grid, lower carbon emissions, and incentivize decarbonization** throughout the manufacturing sector and its supply chains.

2.4 MILLION
UNFILLED JOBS



WORKFORCE

The American workforce needs stronger pathways to middle-skill careers with family-sustaining wages.

More than a quarter of all infrastructure related workers are projected to retire or permanently leave their positions over the next decade and the manufacturing industry faces a potential **2.4 million unfilled positions between 2018 and 2028 due to skills gaps.**

Our elected officials need to support the creation of a robust talent pipeline and focus on developing advanced technical skills and flexible training opportunities for all Americans.

25% OF AMERICAN
FARMS DO NOT HAVE
ACCESS TO INTERNET



DIGITALIZATION

The digital economy is transforming how businesses operate and people connect. To remain competitive, U.S. manufacturers will need to quickly adapt to increase access to digital resources and educate its workforce to acquire necessary technical skills that are in high demand.

But the lack of broadband access has made it a lot harder for rural farms, manufacturing facilities businesses to compete. As of 2019, **25% of American farms had no form of internet access and 72% of farms without high-speed access.**

The takeaway: expanding broadband access keeps the United States competitive and all of its people connected. It is crucial that U.S. policymakers pass legislation that creates funding to help more people in more places.

A CALL TO ACTION

With a generational opportunity to rebuild our nation's infrastructure, the time to act is now. To make sure we make the right kinds of transformational investments, equipment manufacturers are championing four key recommendations that will restore America's economic competitiveness, enhance equipment manufacturers' ability to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, and improve the lives of all Americans. We urge lawmakers, the manufacturing community, and all stakeholders to join us in supporting the following:

- 1** Transition to renewable energy sources, limit development in vulnerable locations, and adopt more resilient building standards to help avoid the worst environmental impacts while still adapting to an evolving climate.
- 2** Expand broadband connectivity, skills programming, and sensor deployments that deliver economic efficiency and equity in the digital age.
- 3** Create new sector partnerships, expand work-based learning programs, and more visible outreach to disadvantaged and underrepresented workers to ensure infrastructure industries serve as a growing source of economic prosperity.
- 4** Ensure states and localities are on a stable fiscal footing so that they can boost net infrastructure investment and experiment with new data and technology throughout the infrastructure design, planning, and construction process.