



Advocacy Alert: Victory on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

THE ISSUE

Infrastructure is the foundation for the operation of every business, including foundries, in the United States. America's prosperity, global competitiveness, and quality of life depend on modern infrastructure. We need a durable strategy to modernize roads, bridges, transit, rail, water, energy, and modern access to broadband.

The U.S. metalcasting industry plays a significant role in infrastructure projects. For decades, America's metalcasters have supplied key components for the vast needs of our nation's highway, bridge, transit, rail, airport, water, construction, energy, and other critical infrastructure. These markets are critically important to the domestic metalcasting industry and its workers.

The passage of the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA), signed into law on November 5, 2021, generated historic investments in our nation's core infrastructure priorities including transportation networks, drinking water and wastewater systems, and energy and communications systems.

AFS ADVOCACY

For over a decade, AFS members have called on Congress and the Administration to invest wholly in our nation's crumbling infrastructure. AFS spent months advocating with congressional leaders from both parties, White House officials, to ensure passage of the legislation and strong domestic procurement requirements. In addition, AFS participated in several coalitions and joined onto dozens of letters urging Congress and the administration, to pass bipartisan infrastructure legislation.

The IIJA provides \$973 billion over five years from Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 through FY 2026, including \$550 billion in new investments in America's infrastructure. Of the \$550 billion in IIJA, \$284 billion will go toward all modes of transportation, with the remaining \$266 billion invested in other physical infrastructure sectors. These transportation funds represent roughly 52 percent of all new resources provided for in the bill to modernize and improve transportation infrastructure, with the majority of funding reserved for highways, roads and bridges.

THE POSITIVE OUTCOME

- **Upgrades all Physical Infrastructure**
In addition to serving as the largest investment in roads, bridges, and passenger rail in more than a half century, the package now represents the largest federal investment in public transit, clean

drinking water, and wastewater infrastructure in American history. Investments of importance in the IIA to the U.S. metalcasting industry include:

- **Roads & Bridges:** \$110 billion
- **Transit:** \$39 billion
- **Rail:** \$66 billion
- **Safety:** \$11 billion
- **Airports:** \$25 billion
- **Ports & Waterways:** \$17 billion
- **Electric Buses:** \$7.5 billion
- **Drinking and Wastewater:** \$55 billion
- **Energy and Power:** \$73 billion

- **Streamlines Permitting**

- **Strong Buy America Requirements for Federal Procurement**

In addition, AFS strongly supported critical components related to Buy America and domestic procurement, which is part of the new law, including:

- Making permanent an American iron and steel requirement for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
- Expanding Buy America preferences for iron, steel, construction materials (including nonferrous castings), and manufactured products on federal infrastructure assistance awards, and imposes robust origin standards on those to be considered for federal contracts.
- Extending Buy America requirements to infrastructure program that don't currently have them – meaning all future federal infrastructure funding would be subject to Buy America requirements.
- Directing the establishment of a central and publicly available website, which is now live, that publicly displays requested Buy American waivers - BuyAmerica.gov – the first time the federal government has a centralized site for these waivers.