

La Posición de las Americas ...

Joint Position Statement Infrastructure

The construction associations of the Americas, representing the construction industries of our countries' respectively, jointly agree that



ARGENTINA



BOLIVIA



BRAZIL



CANADA



COLOMBIA



COSTA RICA



CHILE



REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA



ECUADOR



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



VENEZUELA



URUGUAY



EL SALVADOR



PERU



PARAGUAY



PANAMA



HONDURAS



MEXICO



NICARAGUA



ARGENTINA

Infrastructure is the network of public works systems and facilities that serves as the backbone of our country's physical plants. It includes public buildings (schools, medical and government facilities, etc.), the street network, public transit systems, power facilities, water and wastewater systems, highways, airports, ports, railroads, etc.

The quality of a nation's infrastructure is a critical index of its economic vitality and visibility. Reliable transportation, clean water and the safe disposal of wastes are basic elements of civilized society and a productive economy. The absence of failure of these elements places an unacceptable burden on our citizens and is a major obstacle to growth, competitiveness and a high quality of life.

While a sound infrastructure does not guarantee

future prosperity, long-term economic growth cannot be achieved without it. In addition, infrastructure investment directly supports additional economic activity.

We believe that infrastructure investment must be an absolute priority for our governments. Our countries must ensure that our highways and subways move us swiftly and safely; that our homes, farms and industries are supplied with ample of clean water; that we reduce and safely dispose of the increasing volume of waste generated by our societies; that our educational and other public buildings are adequate to meet their purposes and that we provide the structural underpinning for a robust and competitive economy.

Most government expenditures attempt to meet current obligations and the benefits therefrom

do not extend beyond the current fiscal year. In addition, not all sectors of the economy benefit from government expenditures. In contrast, prudent investment by a nation in its infrastructure provides benefits to both current and future generations and all economic sectors.

Governments have an obligation to enhance and preserve public infrastructure for current and future generations. Governments must therefore have a long-term plan for infrastructure maintenance and upgrading. Financing is a critical element of such plan. This plan should, where necessary, provide for private sector financing in addition to public investment.

Infrastructure investment leads economic development and prosperity. Unfortunately,

in harsh fiscal times infrastructure investment is often the first expenditure targeted for budget cuts. Such action jeopardizes the quality of life of future generations, the quality of the environment, and the future prosperity of the country. A wise time to invest in a country's infrastructure is when the economy may be depressed. Prosperous countries became so by investing in their future when they were not prosperous.

Therefore, we call upon the political leadership of the Americas to take all necessary actions to provide adequate and timely investment in the infrastructure of our respective countries in order to build economic, social and environmental quality of life for all citizens.


Cámara Argentina de la Construcción


Cámara Boliviana de la Construcción


Câmara Brasileira de la Indústria de la Construcción


Canadian Construction Association


Cámara Colombiana de la Construcción


Cámara Costarricense de la Construcción

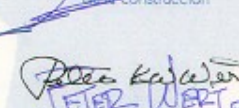

Cámara Chilena de la Construcción


Cámara Dominicana de la Construcción


Federación Ecuatoriana de Cámaras de la Construcción


Cámara de la Construcción de Guayaquil


Cámara de la Construcción de Quito


The Associated General Contractors of America


Cámara Guatemalteca de la Construcción


Cámara Hondureña de la Industria de la Construcción


Cámara Mexicana de la Industria de la Construcción


Cámara Nicaragüense de la Construcción


Cámara Panameña de la Construcción


Cámara Paraguaya de la Industria de la Construcción


Cámara Peruana de la Construcción


Cámara Salvadoreña de la Industria de la Construcción


Cámara de la Construcción del Uruguay


Cámara Venezolana de la Construcción