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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Members, Well, it's almost that time of year again.  That time of year when we all come together and give thanks with our loved ones over a nice meal of juicy golden-brown turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and that green bean casserole with those freeze dried chopped up onion things that no one really eats. It’s also that time of year when Uncle Frank or Aunt Agnes feel compelled to casually toss out a political hand grenade comment at the dinner table and things turn south. You know what I’m talking about. It usually begins with an unsolicited comment like "…unlike those useless people down in Washington." Some will survive the next half hour by either scurrying off to the nearest open bathroom, others by sneaking into the den to enjoy their pumpkin pie with some football. Unfortunately, some will perish in the ashes of the ensuing family political argument and flying casserole green beans. Ah yes, that wonderful time of year again.  At ASCE it is our policy to not take political stances or promote candidates.  And with good reason, ASCE is a registered 501c3 and we're legally not allowed. However, as nation’s oldest civil engineering society, ASCE is perhaps the most important (and knowledgeable) advocates for the need for infrastructure investment and legislation from our elected officials.  It is why ASCE continues to release national and state infrastructure report cards every four years. Pennsylvania just released ours on November 15th and the Pittsburgh Section participated in a statewide release this past Tuesday. See news reports from local TV affiliates [here](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3DpJ76OKxYdT77IpqIHXOBklVrq9R4ucvpx8TZRyhe00AThSmwBxAknWn1g4ben7a7IQGGglZaJAaxYHBIfdt9eY8TSsh5Vlo5LbC69%252f7%252fSq4%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385625043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eGYeeCH0aSWUVYiE9El4Yxeceyhs8cBr5Fx1TF5Gmp4%3D&reserved=0), [here](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3DidgkKwSmKpHxpe8P83%252fophEQYN%252bzkRP24X5K7cMeCdkvOw0ZIm74obJZp22myC%252fRDOGkoHqaiSlGmz9xu7zyKBOzjQUlU6PC9XBvTYG9IJw%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385625043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=M%2B2Jo%2B1dbbmHjO6krUbeYLOjZSfdW4vm3wcQywa2roU%3D&reserved=0), and [here](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3Du7KfADcIxp%252fbVAWZVuqMdlHSlSjpnL4d7u7VqwH5a0mSjYU864V1l0LVvHwobttjKrNprwkuM%252bklzcyiSLuGsRgqoDKec8gM61MMlgPR%252feQ%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385625043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nnlVdni2qpoWvUPj05IqIZmfPR%2BGOlGyDB0N2VFel10%3D&reserved=0). | | | | |

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The purpose of these report cards is to state the facts of our commonwealth’s infrastructure and not get involved in the political green bean casserole food fight.  Unfortunately, many of our grades are in need of a boost. Overall, Pennsylvania’s infrastructure for 2022 gets a ‘C-’, the same as the 2018 report card.  In my first President's message back in August I mentioned how I think there's no better time to be a civil engineer than now. Why? Because of the federal commitments to infrastructure that have been passed within the past year. These include:   1. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Signed into law November 15, 2021) 2. CHIPS and Science Act (Signed into law August 9, 2022) 3. The Inflation Reduction Act (Signed into law August 16, 2022)   In just one year "those people down in Washington" have made an important generational investment in the future of this country’s infrastructure.  All three of these bills provide direct and meaningful progress towards raising the grades of our nation's aging infrastructure, increasing much needed engineering innovation and scientific research, increasing national security and global competitiveness, spurring economic development, work force development and job creation, improving our nation’s lagging STEM education system, and combating the rising threat of severe weather events and climate change. They are shining examples of what ASCE has been advocating for since in 1999 when the [very first national ASCE report card](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3DS%252bapAzlNsFcArEPBJ947VyWF9n%252bstwMtkHtTpjttiPrwQ2Eoa6EpsSc3AmzVv%252b1yetjKt%252fXMaExVxDUZUJwZCOdXEv6dkLKINnoQHlj6FF0%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385625043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=d6%2BjJUoV3bt%2FhHuNdEQYc9zLckEkqlF5ROCu%2Fjl0cy8%3D&reserved=0) was released. ASCE has released official statements and letters praising the passage of all three bills (See links at bottom). Together they represent the largest collective investment in improving our nation's infrastructure.  I encourage everyone to continue to educate themselves on these three bills that way if a family member asks at Thanksgiving dinner, you are prepared to answer. ASCE provides a treasure trove of un-biased information on all three. The purpose of my message today is not to provide a synopsis of these bills, but rather to maybe inspire you to do so on your own and to use ASCE as a resource.  I included some links to the bottom of this message to help you get started.  If there ever were a year to stick around at the dinner table after Uncle Frank's Thanksgiving political comments this would be the year. As civil engineers we should support meaningful progress from our legislators when we see it and give credit where credit is due. We also should utilize the information in our infrastructure report cards when the opportunity presents itself. One of our [guiding principles and mission](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3DpDv%252bx4ObMLr4C3PPfIkfqLIpW8O5dBEYSZPhinm0lWdWRISsJk5EaW4xfv4xRe9eupWp2L6Vfbt7ERK%252b624JKOlVIh7gKTXuzKq4ZGQ1L74%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385625043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=g3JafiuTkAx1IIVoiGSBtGoRGGjKOUo0K8CRQOz27Ik%3D&reserved=0) at the ASCE Pittsburgh Section is to “spread awareness of infrastructure problems, funding shortfalls, and the need to take corrective action.”  Well, there's never been a bigger commitment in the history of this country to taking corrective action than with these three bills.  So, in closing, remain calm and measured with your infrastructure discussions with Aunt Agnes, remember to always take the high road if/when things get heated, and please by all means necessary contain whatever urge you may have from throwing any green bean casserole.  Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving I hope everyone has a loving and peaceful time with your loved ones.  Tom Batroney, PE, M. ASCE  ASCE Pittsburgh Section President | | |  | | --- | |  | | | **ASCE Supporting Statements and Letters:**   * [Statement on Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3Dm7tPSMglj%252ftUGURrukPs2R0nx%252bn01l%252btV2whAvI96ffXbO8Cdplljf5tF4opqQRMukhnXefcjxxO5%252bZxkJOKXumx9WA3vweOvmd70y3NE20%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385625043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6cut7ZTGmze9GwnixEEACfP7qbaB59Aod%2Bz87AbE1Mc%3D&reserved=0) * [Letter Supporting the CHIPS and Science Act](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3Dlj7QZ1jTBDhfRLVsPHXQida%252bR8sOqpPsnv2QhF5iHgfqrF%252fUYGS9UzNinzmdnf9q32EZWBisjxbVFwZ2fPll%252fiVHJVHPYgZGQaOn%252f8ysuJg%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385625043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1t4S5pRdftMNm8sC2pI%2BbZAh7UmH9Dpq3v1JuFEzsiM%3D&reserved=0) * [Statement on the Inflation Reduction Act](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3DOIkyDwiuT0bMI25djvE30zLgLqXRmIypOZcxRAa5KNYXJLbPmkB8zA63odjGaYCN5z5qWKrG91g7rcso8T4y%252fxzwwe%252fhOf0ZHPd%252bsinP8Jo%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385625043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ji%2Bt7tMeKpvcaN0v2rP7bayRRjmnsmMRul9BDmxVLB8%3D&reserved=0)   **Resources and Links:**   * 2021 ASCE produced video spotlighting Pittsburgh infrastructure challenges and need for investment. [American Infrastructure: Below our Feet](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3DbDR%252fRdVJ2aU9mLaPuPkCTRrKoSifZXbS7W%252bpHORuQd3%252fyxcaD1Z66dq4TKUgw3xybAATznaDcm%252bnpFIRn2s%252bSFbaYcKWynZf0oayKTxsXmI%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385625043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=j%2BKI3NAawB5uZkaxfTB2VZfc5K7%2FlqdgSIkYyeeHd4o%3D&reserved=0) * [ASCE National Report Card Home Page](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3DUN%252bp6SuS3uj2YOJwL4UlUOj1iUib8vfdgesdhmMy7K%252fapQA2%252fZfNE6MlexuV267%252bvQhjfhdDL4H8iexNn%252fAT2xeSFNzBIlM4s2oy29WTNAE%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385625043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZMiOxY9YCZIP4RCZDVcuWXgHZbZZXVnFJqZCTTI79ps%3D&reserved=0) * [ASCE Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Implementation Resource Center](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3DbayaDSkVYh3UPLWX9im9neRnXZ%252bzuuEtkMALFXel4g0d9toQwgmfzL5bbwKJd0sD8%252f70qeYEXtrEBTIVvbbFNsIS2uV6BPXRsOvWOCJw5s4%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385625043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yEmCpnn%2FQCUzQeynOVQlfeRFJXTl11yQeLPLS1k5TAI%3D&reserved=0) * [ASCE Summary Memo on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3DCkMGu9ZdlXPOGIMgCZAv9STwW8pTDL%252b7jMov4yXJUcmQZt9jHLdCflvwgo0hAe7gmLOhyYfsguydNHfU5PkqnntkKFV%252fcdYvGzAsa2VOCjw%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385625043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Ku5T92qKyKBz6cL3zEUF1utL0UDnDSzsTDATVs3y31E%3D&reserved=0) * [Myths and Facts: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3DIcXPMyMJcO15pZNAHeBl2e4TZu2W6XcLmJ9G5ZzCTc4jiILzMZpOltB7f6QzZmU8Xuzf9m%252fDcsPk8sx9Jfx61XVMkuW%252b%252bYj4sisRcflFG%252f4%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385781277%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=s%2BiQJOqLGeiAk3IhbkzsJ2dRmk40FBc708Qqn8rRzkw%3D&reserved=0) * [ASCE CHIPS and Science Act Policy Briefing](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3D4ezD6K67ezah9jimPljGupQPeEcgPV1I3dFcH6jk6CYq4Q%252fbaEZpTFOBv7PWT7kZeAv%252b1h8T5gg4Fv6pdMr3RhyWnVBlUToTQkLr%252bM21VCM%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385781277%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=x8PlNqbtiBH%2BrbdW7jpEMVEqVlWLDSPAd%2FVvtXK26UQ%3D&reserved=0) * [ASCE Summary Memo on the CHIPS and Science Act](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3DSQxi5H8NkKdYMNV7RVXWT7cqkEE4wmj6qc1oxpGQFnRgQJEbfpG7abPcgJLXiS1F1QwJCHfGn%252fJnt7yRcExS0uBtigawmv5RplHP%252f9w2IPA%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385781277%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VdMFocrLPBWkg3a8%2BLqDABPAmXre3f20DYE6qAvvJig%3D&reserved=0) * Podcast: [How the three big bills in Congress will spur innovation and competitiveness](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asce-pgh.org%2FEmailTracker%2FLinkTracker.ashx%3FlinkAndRecipientCode%3DpaNLy2GOMcLKFPCVkqZPpjzgsgEfaoY0maVvPzC0iEZrtuv0JJgA%252b7DewFePdJOMdMTqNBh%252bK2eZpyZgeFSc%252bpgv%252bhtx7O5eWRNwuUADWHE%253d&data=05%7C01%7Ctom.batroney%40hdrinc.com%7C72b07ca54622436b2c3208dacbd591d6%7C3667e201cbdc48b39b425d2d3f16e2a9%7C0%7C0%7C638046415385781277%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tWnbxtxsAYdlWTxmYp0DwMcFVHs137Jh1kOLIgyWgOY%3D&reserved=0) (Brookings Institute) | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | | |