



May 21, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
U.S. House  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
U.S. House  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

On behalf of the International Franchise Association (IFA) and our members – the 831,000 independent franchise businesses and their employees who drive the American economy – I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 8870, the **Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America’s 250th (BUILD America 250) Act**. As your committee considers this critical piece of legislation, we urge all members to vote in favor of advancing this bipartisan, five-year surface transportation reauthorization.

Franchising is a cornerstone of the American economy, spanning more than 300 distinct business sectors and accounting for over 8.9 million jobs. Our members – ranging from quick-service restaurants and convenience stores to hospitality, automotive care, and retail – rely heavily on a safe, modernized, and predictable transportation network to keep local economies thriving. The \$580 billion investment provided by the BUILD America 250 Act directly addresses several operational challenges facing our members. Specifically, this legislation benefits franchise businesses by:

- **Lowering Operating Costs Through Freight Efficiency:** Many franchise systems depend on reliable trucking networks to secure inventory, ingredients, and raw materials. Deteriorating infrastructure, traffic bottlenecks, and transit delays directly raise delivery and labor costs – burdens that fall on local franchisees. By emphasizing freight efficiency, highway modernization, and critical bridge investment, this bill addresses the exact logistical challenges that have led major trucking and logistics organizations to endorse it.
- **Supporting Car-Dependent and Highway-Oriented Commerce:** A substantial share of franchise revenue is generated through suburban and highway corridors. Concepts such as drive-thru restaurants, roadside retail, gas stations, hospitality brands, auto repair centers, and trucking-linked services depend on cars. Robust federal transportation spending that maintains road capacity and improves pavement conditions protects and supports the daily customer traffic patterns upon which these businesses rely.
- **Generating Powerful Spillover Demand:** Large-scale infrastructure projects stimulate immediate, nearby economic activity that disproportionately benefit national franchise brands. As construction crews mobilize across the country, they sleep in franchise hotels, eat at chain restaurants, purchase fuel from local convenience stores, and utilize nearby service providers. Because franchise brands are strategically located near major highways and construction corridors, they are uniquely positioned to absorb this economic spillover.



- **Providing Long-Term Certainty for Commercial Expansion:** Businesses cannot execute multi-year plans in an environment of short-term extensions and regulatory cliffs. By replacing expiring federal transportation law well ahead of the September 30 deadline, this bill provides the long-term federal certainty necessary for commercial real estate development, supply chain optimization, and regional franchise expansion. Stable funding gives operators the confidence to make capital-intensive, long-term location investments.
- **Accelerating Development via Streamlined Permitting:** Infrastructure development and commercial growth go hand in hand. IFA strongly supports the inclusion of environmental and regulatory permitting reforms within this vehicle. Speeding up federal project approvals and cutting through bureaucratic red tape will accelerate both public infrastructure projects and the private commercial developments that naturally sprout around modernized franchise corridors.

Our nation's infrastructure is the silent engine of American productivity. By restoring our core transit networks and driving innovation, the BUILD America 250 Act ensures that America's small business job creators can continue to grow, hire, and support their communities.

Thank you for your bipartisan leadership on this monumental legislation. IFA looks forward to working with the Committee to help support H.R. 8870 toward passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Layman', is positioned above the typed name.

Mike Layman  
Chief Advocacy Officer  
International Franchise Association