



BOB CASEY

FIGHTING *for* PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

The Bridge Corrosion Prevention and Repair Act of 2023

U.S. Senators Bob Casey and Debbie Stabenow

On January 28, 2022, the Fern Hollow Bridge collapsed in Pittsburgh, PA. The bridge fell 100 feet into a ravine, bringing five cars and a bus down into the wreckage. The stunning collapse was a stark reminder of the dangers that bridges in poor condition pose to our collective safety.

The United States has more than 40,000 bridges in poor condition, including more than 3,000 in Pennsylvania and 1,200 in Michigan. One major cause of this degradation is corrosion, which happens when the metal sections of a bridge are in prolonged contact with water or harsh chemicals like deicer or salt. [A 2013 estimate from NACE International](#) put the annual cost of corrosion on highway bridges at \$13.6 billion.

While the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* will put tens of billions of dollars towards restoring, rehabilitating, and replacing our Nation's bridges, more action is needed to protect these structures against corrosion to increase their lifespan, maximize the return on the infrastructure law's investments, and keep communities safe.

The *Bridge Corrosion Prevention and Repair Act* would require all entities receiving federal transportation or transit funding to use qualified contractors and industry-recognized standards whenever performing corrosion control work. This would include work on highway bridges, off-system or locally owned bridges, and rail bridges. The bill would also require the development and implementation of a comprehensive corrosion control plan for individual projects. This will help ensure that this important work is done by properly trained professionals using proven methods that will increase the safety and longevity of our bridges.

Additionally, the bill would direct the Federal Highway Administration to perform a study on the efficacy and best practices for maintaining weathering steel, a special type of steel that is manufactured to be more corrosion-resistant but can still corrode under certain conditions. This section is in-line with [recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board](#) (NTSB) during its investigation into the collapse of the Fern Hollow Bridge, which itself was constructed with weathering steel.