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Congress of the United States
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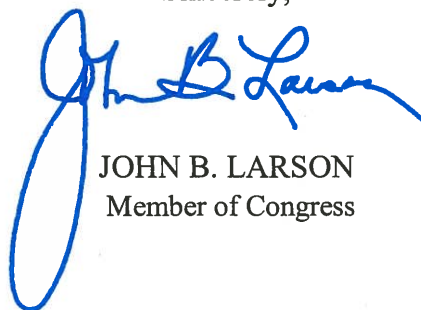
The Honorable Bobby Scott
Chairman
House Committee on Education and Labor
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Scott:

I write in support of two provisions being considered as part of the Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2019 (H.R.865) during bill markup. Representative Courtney has worked to add language to this bill regarding an issue affecting homes and schools in central and eastern Connecticut as well as southern Massachusetts: crumbling building foundations due to the mineral pyrrhotite. I write in strong support of committee report language that would add crumbling foundations due to pyrrhotite to the allowable uses of funds that can be used to eradicate "severe health and safety threats" to schools. I also write in strong support of a provision that Representative Courtney authored, and which is being included in your manager's amendment to the bill, which would create a new grant program for schools, allowing them to use this funding for the repair or replacement of their foundation or any affected structures deteriorating due to pyrrhotite.

In my district, I have seen the severe financial hardship caused to homeowners by crumbling foundations. Similarly, as pyrrhotite has been discovered in the foundations of municipal buildings like public schools, this problem has created severe financial hardships for local town governments and school districts. That is why it is critical that this problem is be addressed in this legislation: so that all children can attend a school that is in good physical condition. As the House considers school infrastructure legislation, I hope that the committees of jurisdiction will keep the unique challenges of crumbling foundations due to pyrrhotite in mind, and I encourage the adoption of these provisions. Please feel free to contact Alicia Garten in my office (Alicia.Garten@mail.house.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Joe Courtney