

Mr. DiLoreto introduced America's Report Card that details the current state of the US infrastructure:

*"Report Card is a way to help US policy makers and public understand the state of the US infrastructure. Every 4 years since 1998, ASCE evaluates the condition and investment needs of 16 major categories of infrastructure and gives the grades in an easy-to-understand format of the report card used in school."*

*"The latest 2013 report card was issued this past March and is seen unprecedented coverage across the entire country. The day released Report Card, ASCE had over 1,000 media hits and, a week after, President Obama cited the Report Card during the speech at the port of Miami and also has made infrastructure investment a key talking point in succeeding tours the country to have included the mention in his 2013 State of the Union Address of ASCE Report Card. He has made a key point that recognizes the economic prosperity, and quality of life of the nation is directly tied to infrastructure investment."*

*"The US global ranking of infrastructure was 14th this past year, 7 slots lower than 2008, at overall score dropped from 6.1 to 5.81 according to Global Competitiveness Report by the World Economic Forum."*

*"ASCE created a vision with three solutions. They are:*

*First, America needs bold leadership and compiling vision of all levels of the government and change the paradigm for leaders to lead.*

*Secondly, America needs to promote sustainability and resiliency based on the triple bottom line of the economy, the environment, and the society.*

*Finally, America has to agree on how to prioritize and fund strategic new investments. We can't afford to do everything we want and don't even have resource to do that."*

*"Report Card is a research report, an advocacy tool and a comprehensive assessment of US infrastructure conditions and investment needs. America's infrastructure received overall Grade of D+ in 2013 Report Card, up slightly from the grade of D in 2009. Two of the categories, we noticed there, received near failing grades of D-, that is, levees and inland waterways. Some positive note was 6 categories improved their grades over the last 4 years, those were roads, bridges, solid waste, drinking water, wastewater and railroads."*

*"We see that high quality of infrastructure is the foundation that connects a nation's businesses, communities and people. In the short term, we need a national commitment to bring existing infrastructure into a state of good repair. In the long term, we have to modernize and build in a targeted strategic manner."*

*"We need leadership at federal level, local level, state level, but we also need, each of us, talk to our elected officials about the importance of infrastructure. D+ certainly in the US is the grade we cannot accept. We believe Americans must make commitment to its infrastructure and ASCE is working towards that goal."*