

LETTERS

Washington does just fine on infrastructure

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To the editor:

In his Sunday opinion essay, the Cato Institutes's Chris Edwards railed against federal infrastructure spending. That's no surprise.

His piece, however, was so full of misinformation and innuendo that some response is needed.

Mr. Edwards says states and private industry do a better job. Yet he omits mention of the locally built Hell Hole Dam failure in California. He implies only federal blame for the San Joaquin's Kesterson Reservoir toxicity, which is directly tied not just to the federal government, but also to the California State Water Plan and myriad local irrigation districts.

The Yuma desalination plant fulfills an international treaty obligation with Mexico made necessary by the state-negotiated Colorado River Compact. Private toll roads in Virginia provide a mechanism whereby corporations can push costs onto the working class instead of contributing their share -- corporations don't pay tolls, commuting workers do.

Levee failure in New Orleans was primarily caused by decades-long lack of maintenance by local levee districts after turnover from the Army Corps of Engineers.

No, all projects aren't perfect, but Mr. Edwards' piece is misleading, if not just wrong.

Jim Daniel
Las Vegas