

NATIONAL STONE, SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION



Natural building blocks for quality of life

November 8, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Republican, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Vitter
Ranking Republican, Subcommittee on
Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer, Ranking Member Inhofe, Senator Baucus and Senator Vitter:

On behalf of the membership of the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA), I write to express support for Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) and to thank you for your leadership and bipartisan efforts to move surface transportation reauthorization forward.

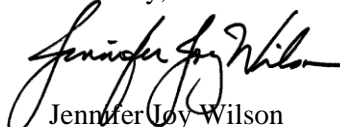
NSSGA has been a strong advocate for the passage of a well-funded, multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill. At a time of economic uncertainty and federal spending cuts, we commend your foresight, dedication and hard work to ensure that our nation's transportation system is not neglected.

NSSGA strongly supports provisions of MAP-21 that maintain current funding levels plus inflation, consolidate transportation programs, expedite the project delivery process and the new "America Fast Forward" financing program. These are just a few of the provisions contained within MAP-21 that are vital to the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of the surface transportation network.

Our members are the crushed stone, sand and gravel operations in almost every congressional district in the country and the principle suppliers of the materials used to build and rehabilitate our nation's highways, roads and bridges. The passage of MAP-21 is critical to moving our industry and the nation out of the severe economic slump we have suffered since 2008. The lack of certainty in the federal highway market has prevented states and local governments from advancing highway projects. Our industry and our state governments make capital investment and human resource decisions based on projections about the direction of the highway construction market over the long term. Short-term program extensions make informed capital investment and human resource decisions impossible.

NSSGA supports passage of MAP-21. Reauthorization of the nation's surface transportation system is essential to economic growth, global competitiveness and to job creation. Again, we appreciate your leadership on this pressing national priority.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Joy Wilson
President & CEO

1605 KING STREET ■ ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
703 525 8788 ■ 800 342 1415 ■ FAX 703 525 7782
WWW.NSSGA.ORG