

NATIONAL STONE, SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION



*Natural building blocks for quality of life*

November 11, 2008

Dear Senator:

The National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA) applauds Congress for proposing another economic stimulus so desperately needed to restore stability to the economy by increasing productivity and employment. We urge you to support including transportation infrastructure investment as a key component in the final economic and job creation package.

Transportation is the backbone of our nation's economy. By including infrastructure funding as part of the stimulus package, you will be helping to improve and make safer our roads and highways and building long-term assets for the country. Americans depend on good roads in their communities to commute to work and to carry out everyday errands. Businesses rely on smooth and efficient transportation systems to move goods throughout the nation and around the globe. According to figures released this year, 33 percent of America's major roads are in poor or mediocre condition. Twenty-six percent of America's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. And, roadway conditions are a significant contributing factor in approximately one-third of traffic fatalities.

Experts have suggested that for every \$1 billion of federal investment into transportation construction, 35,000 long-term, American jobs are created or sustained. Currently, there are more than 3,000, representing \$18 billion worth, of "ready to go" highway projects that could be initiated within 30 to 90 days after the passage of a stimulus package that would ensure the investment into infrastructure.

Many groups, including the aggregates industry, are facing dire circumstances due to delay or cancellation of infrastructure projects. In some areas of the country, our member companies have seen double digit decreases in aggregate production requiring the layoff of workers for the first time.

As the nation's premier aggregates association, NSSGA represents a vital part of our nation's economy and infrastructure. Our member companies produce more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel consumed annually in the United States. The aggregates industry workforce is made up of about 118,000 men and women. Every \$1 million in aggregates sales creates 19.5 jobs, and every dollar of industry output returns \$1.58 to the economy. Construction aggregates are used primarily in asphalt and concrete. Every mile of interstate contains 38,000 tons of aggregates.

By including infrastructure in the stimulus package, Congress will not only jump-start the economy but will create jobs for the future while expanding and improving America's highway and transportation infrastructure system, making it safer and more efficient.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Joy Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jennifer Joy Wilson  
President & CEO