

NATIONAL STONE, SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION



*Natural building blocks for quality of life*

January 12, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

The National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA) supports swift passage of economic stimulus and recovery legislation that is desperately needed to restore stability to our economy by increasing productivity and employment and reducing the tax burden weighting down individuals and businesses. We urge you to support inclusion of 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 while building long-term assets for the country. Americans depend on good roads in their communities to commute to work and to carry out everyday activities. Businesses rely on smooth and efficient transportation systems to move goods throughout the nation and around the globe. According to figures released last 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 estimate that for every \$1 billion of federal investment into transportation construction, 35,000 long-term, American jobs are created or sustained. More than 5,000 projects representing \$66 billion have been identified as "ready-to-go" highway projects that could be initiated within 30 to 90 days after the passage of an economic stimulus and recovery package that would ensure the investment goes into infrastructure.

Many groups, including the aggregates industry, are facing tough times 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.

Enclosed are NSSGA principles for transportation infrastructure investment in the economic stimulus and recovery plan. By including this type of investment, 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, reading "Joy Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joy" and last name "Wilson" clearly legible.

Jennifer Joy Wilson  
President & CEO

Enclosure

## **NSSGA PRINCIPLES FOR TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT IN THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND RECOVERY PLAN**

The National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA) supports passage of an economic stimulus and recovery package that is needed to restore stability to the economy. We urge Congress to act quickly and include transportation infrastructure investment as a key component in the final economic and job creation package.

Passage of an economic stimulus package with a significant highway investment component is the top priority for the aggregates industry. Investing in our nation's surface transportation infrastructure will result in the creation of thousands of American jobs, reduce congestion thereby benefiting the environment, enhance safety, and providing long-term assets so essential to American's freedom of mobility.

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 and every mile of interstate contains 38,000 tons of aggregates.

Like other business sectors, the aggregates industry is experiencing a reduction in production of double digits in many part of the country. Nevertheless, NSSGA members are ready and able to supply the rock that will be needed for the accelerated road, highway and other transportation infrastructure that is being contemplated for the economy stimulus and recovery package.

NSSGA supports the following general principles for this transportation infrastructure spending.

- There must be accountability and oversight of any funds designated for highway and road construction to ensure proper control and use of the funds.
- Funding should be distributed on a formulaic basis.
- Provisions should be included to prevent the federal stimulus funds from being substituted for state funds to ensure real growth and job creation.
- The money should be on a "use-it-or-lose-it" basis, so that the funds get into the system quickly to provide needed stimulus.
- NSSGA supports a waiver of the state matching requirement in order to further speed the funding and creation of jobs.
- There should be increased investment in all transportation modes that assures the core highway, aviation infrastructure and public transportation programs grow and that this growth is sustained until multi-year authorization bills are in place.