

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson Speaker of the House H-232, The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:

On behalf of the members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I write in support of The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. This important legislation funds federal agencies and programs that are critical to the aggregates industry and the continued development of our communities. We urge Congress to move to swiftly pass this legislation and keep our government open.

NSSGA represents the aggregates industry, and the equipment manufacturers and service providers who support them. Our industry has 9,000 facilities and well over 100,000 employees in high-paying jobs. The industry produces 2.5 billion tons of aggregates annually, which is crucial for sustaining our lifestyle and constructing the nation's infrastructure and communities. These products are fundamental components required for building communities, roads, airports, transit, rail, ports, providing clean water and energy networks.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 supports our industry by investing \$79.4 billion for roads, bridges, and transit infrastructure for programs funded through the Highway Trust Fund, an increase of \$1.8 billion from 2023. Specifically, this investment includes \$60.8 billion for the Federal Highway Administration for formula programs funded from the Highway Trust Fund that improve the safety and long-term viability of our nation's highway systems; \$532 million for discretionary Airport Improvement Grants and projects; and \$2.2 billion for Highway Infrastructure Programs and projects. Additionally, this bill includes NSSGA priorities such as supporting material neutral decisions that do not promote or provide preference for specific building materials when deploying infrastructure investments and provides robust funding for airport technology research. The bill also supports community projects identified by more than 356 House Members on both sides of the aisle that increase the safety and viability of our airports, highways, and transit systems as well as strengthen our housing, business, and community infrastructure.

Passage of this bill will provide significant investment to our nation's infrastructure through discretionary programs and support the work of agencies that are essential to our operations. We applied the bipartisan efforts to craft this legislation and support its passage through Congress.

Sincerely.

Michele Stanley

Executive Vice President & Chief Advocacy Officer