



NATIONAL STONE, SAND
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman of the Senate Committee on
Environment and Public Works
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member of the Senate Committee
on Environment and Public Works
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito,

The National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA) thanks you for your leadership and supports the introduction and passage of *The Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021*. We appreciate the robust and historic levels this surface transportation reauthorization package provides our surface transportation network and welcome the willingness to pass this bill expeditiously, before the current one-year extension of the FAST Act expires on September 30th.

NSSGA is the leading advocate and resource for the aggregates industry, who provide the critical raw materials found in virtually every surface transportation project; roads, highways, bridges, runways, pipelines and much more. Our membership represents more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel produced annually in the United States. Our member companies work closely with federal partners, state Departments of Transportation agencies and local officials to improve and advance our surface transportation network.

Infrastructure investment is the economic driver to put countless Americans back to work and passing a five-year reauthorization package totaling \$303.5B will go a long way towards increasing our nation's economic competitiveness. Recognizing our surface transportation infrastructure network needs transformational federal investments and presenting a reauthorization bill that is a 34 percent increase in funding over current investment levels, is extremely encouraging. This package will help states and localities address backlogs in maintenance, make investments in freight corridors, improve road safety and congestion, all while putting countless Americans back to work



We welcome many policies within *The Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021* that were included with the cooperation and support of your respective staff. We welcome inclusion of One Federal Decision, which will greatly enhance the permitting process by eliminating duplicative environmental reviews and ensure public works projects are delivered on time. We also welcome prioritization of flexible formula funds for State Department of Transportation agencies, which ensures urban and rural communities alike can receive the necessary investments to improve their local surface projects.

While we welcome these priorities, we also encourage incorporation of the *Rebuilding Our Communities by Keeping Aggregates Sustainable* (ROCKS) Act, a bi-partisan bill recently introduced by Sens. Kelly (AZ) and Portman (OH). The ROCKS Act would create a working group at the Department of Transportation to convene and study the use of aggregate resources in federal transportation projects. This would provide a critical addition focus as *The Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021* as it aims to greatly improve our road, bridge and highway network with aggregate materials.

As your committee has proved before, we hope this package can advance out of EPW unanimously, underscoring the bi-partisanship and broad support infrastructure investment has throughout Congress. While we understand this is just the first step, the aggregates industry is here to help and partner with sister committees of jurisdiction – Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Finance Committee – to ensure their titles are drafted and passed with ample time for the Senate to consider and pass the overall surface transportation reauthorization package.

Please consider NSSGA a resource to you and your colleagues as this process evolves and ultimately moves through Congress and signed by the President. Thank you again for *The Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021* and recognizing the critical need this reauthorization provides our nation's infrastructure network. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues and passing significant federal investment into our surface transportation infrastructure systems.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Johnson
President and CEO
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association

cc: Members of the EPW Committee

