



NATIONAL STONE, SAND  
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

June 16, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Chairman of the Senate Committee on  
Commerce, Science, & Transportation  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Ranking Member of the Senate Committee  
on Commerce, Science, & Transportation  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker,

On behalf of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA) and the aggregate industry we represent, we welcome the committee's markup of your infrastructure title, the *Surface Transportation Infrastructure Act* (STIA), which is a critical piece of the Senate's overall surface transportation reauthorization package. NSSGA appreciate STIA's five-year, \$78 billion authorization of critical safety, trail and multimodal programs necessary for our advancement of our transportation system.

NSSGA is the leading advocate and resource for the aggregates industry, whose members provide the critical raw materials found in virtually every public works 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.

The aggregates industry has led the charge to pass a robust, multi-year surface transportation reauthorization package before the current one-year extension of the FAST Act that expires on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Our surface transportation network is crumbling and facing over \$800 billion in overdue improvements and expansions that have yet to be implemented. It is no secret that our roads, bridges and highways are overutilized and underfunded, and the only way to fix this problem is if Congress prioritizes surface transportation project improvements that will employ hundreds of thousands of Americans and will dramatically grow our national economy.

We welcome STIA's authorization for \$36 billion in federal investments for rail programs, \$27.8 billion for multimodal programs and \$13 billion for safety programs. Further we appreciate your efforts to invest roughly \$1.2 billion a year in the Nationally Significant



Multimodal Freight program and improving coordination between federal and state governments regarding freight planning. As you know, freight transportation is responsible for the majority of aggregate movement across the country, and we thank you for omitting any arbitrary increases to truck insurance minimums, which would only drive up material costs without improving truck safety or efficiency.

We hope tomorrow's markup continues to facilitate bi-partisanship amongst your colleagues, as we recently saw during the Environment & Public Works Committee unanimous markup of their surface transportation reauthorization title the other week. As this process continues, please consider NSSGA as a resource and engaged partner to help identify and advocate for those relevant policies most important to aggregate producers and the construction supply chain. Thank you for your efforts and we look forward to advancing a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization package in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation

