



**HIGHWAY MATERIALS GROUP**

ACAA · ACPA · ATSSA · AED · AEM · CRSI · NAPA · NRMCA · NSSGA · PCA · PCI

August 17, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

The Highway Materials Group (HMG) thanks you for your leadership and urges immediate passage of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA) – H.R. 3684 – before the current one-year extension of the FAST Act expires on September 30<sup>th</sup>. We are appreciative of the robust levels IIJA provides our surface transportation network and the countless improvements it will provide our dilapidated infrastructure network. We welcome the funding levels provided by IIJA, including \$109 billion in new spending on our surface transportation network, \$16 billion for ports and waterway improvements, \$55 billion for water infrastructure and other critical infrastructure improvements. The HMG supports key bipartisan and pragmatic policies included in IIJA that will ensure our members are able to efficiently address our infrastructure needs.

The HMG is comprised of 11 national trade associations whose members provide the materials and equipment necessary to build America's transportation infrastructure and employ tens of thousands of hard-working men and women in well-paying jobs. America's infrastructure network is crumbling and can no longer depend on insufficient user fees and short-term extensions, and we support all efforts that deliver immediate action and work towards addressing these obstacles.

The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* incorporates numerous policies our collective industries support and we are encouraged these policies were included with the cooperation and support of your colleagues from the committees of jurisdiction. In particular, we welcome:

- Adaptation of strategic Buy America exemptions for critical raw materials such as aggregate, cement and cementitious materials, asphalt binder and related inputs. Our industry supports Buy America, however these specific exemptions to expanding Buy America to cover construction materials will eliminate unintended consequences to the construction supply chain and ensure our materials are delivered in a timely and cost-effective manner.

- 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.
- 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.
- We are grateful for the robust funding for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) as well as the inclusion of safety contingency funds and safety enhancements for roadway construction work sites.
- Inclusion of the ROCKS Act, which will help improve communication and coordination between federal, state and local partners and industry stakeholders regarding current and future aggregate needs, improving environmental impacts and aggregate sourcing for upcoming infrastructure projects.
- We applaud the inclusion of dedicated funding programs to repair and replace our nation's most deficient bridges, as well as fund major projects that are too large or complex for traditional funding mechanisms. Addressing these needs will promote safety, efficiency, and economic activity.

The industries and member companies represented within HMG are a resource to you and your colleagues as IJA moves through the chamber, and ultimately passes Congress and signed by the President. Thank you again for prioritizing the bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* and advancing this great package that will produce meaningful infrastructure investment, benefiting millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

American Coal Ash Association  
American Concrete Pavement Association  
American Traffic Safety Services Association  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute  
National Asphalt Pavement Association  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association  
Portland Cement Association  
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute

cc: Members of the House of Representatives