



HIGHWAY MATERIALS GROUP

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

August 3, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

The Highway Materials Group (HMG) thanks you for your leadership and urges immediate passage of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA). 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 the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* and working with the bi-partisan Senate negotiators and White House staff to produce meaningful infrastructure investment that will benefit 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 Senate