



NATIONAL STONE, SAND  
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

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,

On behalf of the 400 members of the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA) I am writing to share our strong support for H.R. 3684, the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA), recently passed by the Senate with bipartisan support and urge its passage through the House as quickly as possible. IIJA is a historic, robust bipartisan infrastructure bill that will significantly enhance our crumbling infrastructure network, improve our national economy and global competitiveness, and provide hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs throughout the country. We urge you to pass IIJA before September 30<sup>th</sup>, as the current one-year extension of the FAST Act expires at the end of this fiscal year and the construction industry needs this federal funding certainty for FY22 and beyond.

NSSGA is the leading advocate and resource for the aggregates industry, who provides 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. We have led the calls for meaningful federal infrastructure investment for years and will continue this advocacy until IIJA is signed into law.

NSSGA endorses the \$550 billion in new spending over the next five years, which leverages existing federal funds without increasing taxes. This bill would increase critical federal investments in our nation's surface transportation network, rail and transit systems, broadband, water infrastructure, ports and waterways, resiliency, and environmental mitigation. Specifically, NSSGA would like to acknowledge the \$110 billion above baseline levels in road, highway and bridge projects, directly addressing our underfunded and overutilized surface transportation network.



IJA is a responsible bill that will not bring around sharp price increases and takes critical steps to ensure taxpayer funding is responsibly utilized. The investments in this bill are targeted and will be used to support existing government programs to fix underperforming infrastructure over multiple years. Further as the legislation will improve the supply chain and delivery of goods, its passage will reduce inflationary pressures that are impacting our economy.

Aside from the needed levels of federal infrastructure investment, NSSGA applauds the inclusion of various bipartisan policies, which leverages federal infrastructure dollars and greatly enhances our surface transportation network:

- 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.
- Incorporation of the ROCKS Act, which would facilitate coordination between local, state and federal stakeholders regarding current and future aggregate needs for public works projects. This enhanced communication and partnership between aggregate producers, geologists, city planners and federal officials will mitigate environmental impacts and maximize local aggregate sourcing and transportation.
- Inclusion of the One Federal Decision, which would enhance permit streamlining and eliminate duplicative permitting applications and review, without sacrificing environmental protection and diligent review. These policies will help leverage federal dollars and maximize the historic funding levels authorized in this bill.
- Targeted funding similar to the REGROW Act to mitigate almost 56,000 orphaned wells across the nation that will improve the environment in impacted communities and create almost 13,000 new jobs.

NSSGA applauds your leadership to bring this transformative, bipartisan infrastructure package to the Senate floor. We support immediate House passage of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* and will call upon the House to rapidly approve this important measure. Please use us as a resource as the legislative process continues. Thank you again for all your efforts and willingness to delivering meaningful federal infrastructure investment to the American people.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Members of the United States House of Representatives

