



NATIONAL STONE, SAND  
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

August 2, 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:

On behalf of the 400 members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I am writing to share our strong support for H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and urge the Senate to pass IIJA as quickly as possible. Your leadership and continued support of the G-22 has yielded 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.

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.

IIJA 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.

The investments provided by H.R. 3684 in surface transportation comes at a critical time as the current one-year surface transportation reauthorization act expires on September 30th. Failure to act only prolongs our economic recovery and brings greater uncertainty to job creators as the expiration of our surface transportation programs draws near.

Aside from the needed levels of federal infrastructure investment, NSSGA applauds the inclusion of various bipartisan policies, many of which are included in the authorizing titles from the Environment & Public Works Committee (EPW) and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Specifically, NSSGA is pleased IJA includes:

- 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.

As the Senate works to advance this legislation NSSGA supports adoption of two bi-partisan amendments and urges their incorporation into IJA:

- **Cornyn/Padilla:** This amendment would allow recipients of state and local assistance from the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan to spend remaining, unspent funds on infrastructure projects.
- **Wicker/Stabenow:** This amendment would modify the Carbon Reduction Program to provide eligibility for state DOTs to achieve carbon emission reductions through pavement procurement.

NSSGA applauds your leadership to bring this transformative, bipartisan infrastructure package to the Senate floor. We support Senate 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. W. 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 United States Senate

