



NATIONAL STONE, SAND
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

October 20, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. 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 & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I am writing to urge you and every member of the House of Representatives to put politics aside and hold a standalone vote on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), without regard to the broader budget reconciliation package.

NSSGA represents aggregates producers and those who manufacture equipment and services that support the construction industry. Our members are essential to the work of this country, and we represent more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel produced annually in the United States. Our members employ more than 100,000 hard-working men and women, who are responsible for the essential raw materials found in every home, building, road, bridge and public works project.

The thousands of men and women who work across the aggregates industry, and their counterparts who work in millions of jobs related to the construction industry, depend upon congressional action to keep their livelihoods and provide for their families. Unfortunately, that is in jeopardy as unnecessary politics has tied the fate of the bipartisan IIJA to an unfinished, partisan budget reconciliation package. The Houses failure to vote on the IIJA at the end of September led to a short-term patch, keeping the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) operational until November 1. The short-term extensions and future uncertainty have already halted planning and construction of major infrastructure projects around the country. Currently, state Departments of Transportation (DOTs) are limiting project activity, as they are not sure if and when House action on the IIJA will occur. The history of repeated extensions of the highway program is unacceptable and an irresponsible use of taxpayer dollars. Further, with the ongoing cash flow issues facing the HTF, it is expected there will be a shortfall of available dollars to fund federal projects next month. If Congress does not vote on the IIJA in the coming weeks, billions of dollars of additional spending will likely be necessary to keep federal surface transportation programs afloat.



As we have communicated in our previous [letter of support](#) and ‘[Key Vote Alert](#),’ the IIA provides a full five-year reauthorization of our nation’s surface transportation programs and includes additional funding to tackle our outdated infrastructure, while being fully paid for by repurposing unused dollars for infrastructure. The bill contains no tax increases or poison pill policy riders that would cause objections and is [widely endorsed](#) by the business and labor community.

Recent economic indicators, including the September jobs report, are showing the economy is in danger of stalling. Passing the IIA will set the stage for continued economic success and help move our economy through the pandemic. The legislation takes uncertainty off the table, and its investments will provide for two million new, high-paying jobs. The infrastructure funded under the bill will reduce congestion; expand ports and runways; and improve our outdated rail and water system networks. In addition, the legislation includes investments that will expand broadband access; improve energy networks; and foster more resilient communities. In total, the investments provided by IIA are imperative to modernizing our infrastructure and keeping the U.S. competitive in the global marketplace. These developments are desperately needed, as our economy is feeling the impact of a logistical logjam that is delaying the delivery of inputs, finished goods and products to consumers. It is critically important for leaders from both sides of the aisle in the House of Representatives to put politics aside and deliver the IIA to the President’s desk. If brought to the floor of the House as a standalone measure, the bill would pass, as it did in the senate with 69 bipartisan votes. Doing so will provide a level of certainty our industry desperately needs and deliver the infrastructure investment the American people have long deserved.

Almost every member of the House ran on the promise of infrastructure, and the IIA represents the consensus, bipartisan product that includes priorities championed by Democrats and Republicans in the House. It is time to let the people’s House do the work that this nation put you there to do.

Sincerely,

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

Michael Johnson
President and CEO
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association

CC: Members of the House of Representatives

