



NATIONAL STONE, SAND
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

February 15, 2022

Dear Members to the 117th Congress:

On behalf of the 400 members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, I am writing to share our strong opposition to policies that would diminish revenue sources used to fund the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). Specifically, we call on Congress to reject S. 3609, which would suspend collection of the \$00.184 -per-gallon federal user fee on gasoline. This funding is critical to support infrastructure projects which greatly benefit American families and businesses.

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.

It is no secret the method for funding our federal highway trust fund (HTF) is in dire need of reform. Our user-fee system is not keeping pace with the demand for new infrastructure and Congress has had to approve almost \$300 billion in general fund transfers over the last two decades to keep the HTF solvent. For years, NSSGA has called upon Congress to address the growing solvency issues and ensure common sense, sustainable measures are in place to fund critical infrastructure projects to keep our country moving.

NSSGA strongly opposes legislation that suspends or halts the collection of the current gas user fee that is used to fund the HTF. The HTF is critical to our collective livelihoods and supports thousands of construction projects and millions of jobs across the nation. S. 3609 is a short-sighted solution that will force another \$20 billion in debt financing and brings increased uncertainty to the solvency of the surface transportation system – all at a time when state DOTs and federal agencies are looking to implement the bipartisan infrastructure law. More debt and delays to building roads, bridges, rail, ports, and critical infrastructure projects will not solve the inflation challenges and, in fact, will likely cause more harm.

It should also be noted, collection of the \$00.184 federal motor fuel user fee is applied at the wholesale level and not at the pump. There is no guarantee that the savings of the suspended collection will be passed on to consumers. S. 3609 risks undermining our ability to improve roads and build transit networks, all the while not guaranteeing any relief to the American public.



Further, any drive to add this legislation to Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations package is extremely short sighted and runs afoul of Congressional precedent and rules. Authorization proposals that could have profound impacts on our nation's infrastructure should go through regular order to receive proper examination and vetting by Congress and impacted stakeholders. They should be left off of spending measures.

We appreciate the commitment of lawmakers who want to find legislative solutions that reduce the burden of increased gas prices on American family and businesses. The global pandemic, supply chain crisis and drastic inflationary pressures have impacted America's aggregates producers who are also faced with shortages and increased operation costs. However, temporarily reducing the federal user fee on fuel will not yield savings for families and, instead, risks bringing more turmoil to the men and women who build and use our infrastructure.

We call on Congress to get serious about reforms to funding the HTF that are fair and applied to all transportation users, which will bring greater certainty to fixing our nation's transportation networks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Johnson', written over a light gray rectangular background.

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

