



NATIONAL STONE, SAND
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

August 8, 2022

The Honorable Peter Defazio
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Donald Payne Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and
Hazardous Materials
106 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
11355 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Crawford
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and
Hazardous Materials
2422 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, Chairman Payne, and Ranking Member Crawford:

On behalf of the members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I am writing to share our strong support of the Freight Rail Shipping Fair Market Act. I thank the committee for their leadership in drafting this legislation that will improve shipping conditions, allowing America's aggregates producers to move essential building materials and industrial sand to the market.

NSSGA is the leading voice and advocate for the aggregates industry. Our members are stone, sand, and gravel producers and the equipment manufacturers and service providers who support them. NSSGA's member companies produce more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel consumed annually in the United States. Aggregates are the building blocks that create towns, cities, and the connections in between. Our industry is synonymous with infrastructure, but it provides much more. Aggregates play a crucial role in everything we touch including roads, railways, bridges, tunnels, water supply, sewers, electrical grids and telecommunications. NSSGA also represents the industrial sand industry. Industrial sand members provide materials for the manufacture of glass, ceramics, cast metal products, and provide "frac sand" that is essential for domestic oil and gas production. The industrial sand industry is heavily dependent on freight rail to deliver products to the end users.

It is no secret that rail service conditions are failing for the aggregates industry. Deteriorating rail conditions have a direct impact on our ability to supply millions of tons of aggregates and industrial sand, which are used to improve outdated infrastructure, build resilient communities and drive



America's energy production. In [detailed comments](#) to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) earlier this year, NSSGA shared how service disruptions and unwarranted price increases are severely impacting our industry. If action is not taken to improve service, the constant delays and the inability to move product to market will continue to have a direct impact on supplying key infrastructure projects across the country. This will ultimately plague the implementation of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

NSSGA urges Congress to advance the Freight Rail Shipping Fair Market Act, as it provides a reauthorization of the STB and grants new tools that help address the irresponsible lack of rail service facing shippers. Specifically, the legislation prohibits rail rate increases during a rail service emergency. This is especially important to aggregates and industrial sand shippers who, at times, are faced with drastic rate increases with only a few days' warning. In addition, the legislation requires service delivery standards and remedies to be included in rail contracts. This will help shippers who are provided with only a fraction of the contractually promised service and currently have no real recourse to ensure their promised shipments are able to reach their destination.

The Freight Rail Shipping Fair Market Act takes needed steps to improve market conditions to promote better and more consistent rail service. It establishes incentives for improved and expanded freight rail service. This legislation helps restore the balance to the marketplace, without new government overreach and mandates. NSSGA asks all members of Congress to support this legislation. We appreciate the work of the Committee and all who are working diligently to improve rail service that will benefit all Americans.

Sincerely,



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

