



NATIONAL STONE, SAND
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

September 12, 2022

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

On behalf of the 400 members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I am writing to share our support for Shailen Bhatt's nomination to lead the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

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 2.56 billion tons of stone, 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 work of this committee over the past years to craft and advance responsible surface transportation reauthorizations, which were incorporated as the base of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), has given FHWA a historic opportunity to improve our infrastructure that betters the lives of every American. With \$383 billion in new contract authority and hundreds of billions in additional investments across dozens of new and existing programs, FHWA has an essential role in executing the IIJA investments that will modernize our transportation systems to eliminate congestion, improve the flow of goods that sustain our nation and every community.

Mr. Bhatt's decades of experience and career of work to advance infrastructure development will be critical as FHWA works to execute the largest infrastructure investments in our country's history. NSSGA looks forward to partnering with Mr. Bhatt, as we address ongoing implementation challenges that could disrupt IIJA's investment. One critical roadblock has been the lack of clear and conscious communication over the new Build America, Buy America regulations, including the exclusion for aggregates-based products. Clear, unambiguous communications to State DOTs, construction companies and construction materials, which follows the intent of Congress, is crucial to building new projects.



Further, as FHWA works to move IIJA funds, either through formula programs or discretionary grants, we urge the agency to avoid partisan policy mandates that limit flexibility. Whether investing in a new road in a rural community or a new transit system in an urban city, the taxpayer investments under IIJA should benefit all Americans. That is why we are concerned with proposed policies that were not included in IIJA that insert new, partisan criteria into the planning process, such as restrictions on new road capacity projects.

NSSGA members are diligently working across 9,000 operations to produce the essential materials needed to upgrade bridges, modernize roads and improve our transportation networks. Our members stand ready to work with Mr. Bhatt to rebuild our nation.

Thank you for your attention to the views of NSSGA, and we look forward to the Committee advancing the nomination of Mr. Bhatt as administrator of FHWA.

Sincerely,

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

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

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

