July 18, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington DC 20510

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

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the Highway Materials Group (HMG), we write to express our strong support for enacting a bipartisan budget agreement that will increase discretionary spending limits for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and beyond.

The HMG is comprised of 11 national trade associations whose members provide the materials and equipment necessary to build America’s transportation infrastructure and employ tens of thousands of hard-working men and women in well-paying American jobs.

We are thankful for your leadership on this critical issue and are encouraged by the bipartisan desire of members in both chambers of Congress, and the Administration, to enact a spending agreement that will allow for completion of the annual appropriations bills and eliminate the harmful impacts of sequestration.

Building upon the success of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which provided a $20 billion increase to infrastructure improvements, it is imperative Congress enacts a new budget agreement that continues to make substantial investments that will improve our roads, bridges and tunnels.

In addition, we would also request that any agreement reached include a repeal of the rescission of $7.6 billion in Federal-aid highway contract authority scheduled to occur next year. As you may know, Section 1438 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act; P.L. 114-94) rescinds $7.6 billion in unobligated Federal-aid program contract authority on July 1, 2020. All 50 states and the District of Columbia will be impacted by the rescission, along with many other transportation stakeholders.
Unfortunately, the need to repair our existing infrastructure and meet the needs of our communities today and beyond has never been greater. American families are tired of driving on crumbling roads and bridges and enduring ongoing delays and congestion. In fact, it is estimated that driving on roads in need of repair costs U.S. motorists $131 billion per year in extra vehicle repairs and operating costs. All the while, competing economies around the globe are making the necessary investments to modernize their infrastructure leaving the U.S. at a competitive disadvantage.

For these reasons, the HMG strongly believes a bipartisan budget agreement that allows for continued congressional investments in infrastructure, as well as, the removal of the $7.6 billion rescission is essential for increasing economic growth and prosperity, creating jobs and opportunities and enhancing America’s global competitiveness. Further, rapid approval of a budget agreement will provide greater economic certainty to our industry and partners who are responsible for building and maintaining our nation’s roads.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to reaching a budget agreement that will support investments in our nation’s infrastructure.

Sincerely,
American Coal Ash Association
American Concrete Pavement Association
American Traffic Safety Services Association
Associated Equipment Distributors
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute
National Asphalt Pavement Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
Portland Cement Association
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute

Cc:
Honorable Mick Mulvaney, Acting White House Chief of Staff
Honorable Steve Mnuchin, Secretary of the Treasury
Honorable Russ Vought, Acting Office of Management and Budget Director
Members of the 116th Congress