

June 29, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader McConnell and Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the 400 members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I am writing to urge you to consider that investments in infrastructure will create high-paying jobs for communities in need. Infrastructure projects put people to work and benefit the transport of goods and services we all rely upon.

Last week, *The Washington Post* reported on a recent study by the National League of Cities that found more than 700 cities across the country have halted projects that would improve roads, buy equipment and complete other much needed public works projects, including water systems. These are projects vital to the economic health of our nation and the states, cities and communities that comprise it. This report only confirms what we have feared for some time, which is why NSSGA has been a vocal supporter of a federal backstop that supports infrastructure in economic relief packages. These city and state projects need federal relief, and we urge you to work together to provide it in the next relief bill.

NSSGA represents aggregate 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 consumed annually in the United States. Our members employ more than 100,000 hard-working men and women and are responsible for the essential raw materials found in every home, building, road, bridge and public works project. It is our members who make possible the very projects that are being halted due to economic hardships.

COVID-19 is affecting every aspect of our economy, leading to an unprecedented downturn. Unemployment rates are higher than during the Great Depression, and millions of jobless claims continue to be filed each week. Even worse, there is tremendous uncertainty surrounding the reopening of the economy; businesses are still shutting their doors; and consumers continue to pull back.

Further, our local institutions that form the backbone of our communities are being forced to reduce services and eliminate work which only multiplies the economic blow across the nation. This, in addition to the drastic budget shortfalls we are seeing in state governments, especially Departments of Transportation (DOTs), is quite frightening for those who depend on the roads, bridges, hospitals, schools and water systems in local communities.

As we continue to take in these grim realities, we search for solutions that deliver prosperity for our country. The simple phrases, 'people need jobs, people want jobs,' has been an echoed at every corner, by both Democrats and Republicans and rings louder than ever today. It is a

fundamental truth that good jobs have made America great. During the Great Depression, digging a drainage ditch was seen not just as a job, but it was the workers' contribution to making their town and the country a better place. Congress must act to bring that sense of pride back to the American people.

Providing relief to struggling local agencies and investing in infrastructure is key to reversing the economic impact of COVID-19 and delivering new jobs that will lead our nation back to its economic heights. Providing opportunities to the construction worker or planning engineer, is not only good for their families, but will deliver economic benefits that ripple to equipment manufacturers and suppliers; to those at the local lunch counter and gas station; to those transporting goods and services we all need. Our nation's infrastructure has been lagging for decades. Investment in infrastructure provides jobs, improves communities and pays dividends day after month after year beyond the project itself that can and will drive our economy forward. Making this investment in infrastructure will provide greater economic returns than other stimulus measures or tax cuts, and it will impact people at a greater level in the areas where they live.

Taking bold action is the key to delivering economic recovery that create jobs for which Americans yearn. This investment will also leave a legacy of improvement as updates are made to our transportation networks, airports, waterways, schools, housing and energy facilities that are in a state of disrepair.

On behalf of all NSSGA members, who stand ready to supply the necessary building materials that will improve our roads, homes, businesses and communities, I strongly urge you to bring forward an infrastructure package in the coming month that addresses the current shortfalls in state DOT and local government budgets and sets the stage for economic prosperity. I ask for you to work together, as a bipartisan solution is the only path to providing this necessary investment: an investment in our future that is also an investment in our people today. In doing so, you will not only be rebuilding our communities but delivering jobs and a sense of pride back to the American people.

Sincerely,

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

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

Cc: The Honorable Steve Mnuchin, Secretary of the Treasury
Members of the 116th Congress