

## Support H.R. 1957, the Great American Outdoors (GAO) Act

July 22, 2020

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the highway and building materials industry we write to express our strong support for H.R. 1957, the Great American Outdoors (GAO) Act. This legislation represents an extraordinary bipartisan opportunity to improve the infrastructure within the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federally managed lands.

Our country's national parks and public lands comprise our nation's most significant natural and cultural treasures. Sadly, much of the infrastructure that these irreplaceable resources depend on, such as roads, bridges, and trails, is worn-out or desperately in need of repair and rehabilitation at a time when visitors need safe roads and bridges, accessible trails and 21st century infrastructure.

Many of these road, bridge, and trail assets are deteriorating, with older assets becoming more expensive to repair and maintain in good condition. As of the end of FY 2018, the Department of Interior's total deferred maintenance backlog was \$16.4 billion, and nearly one-half of that total is related to transportation assets—primarily roads and bridges, but also including tunnels, parking areas, shuttle buses, and trails. Deteriorating infrastructure, exacerbated by increasing visitation pressures and inconsistent annual funding, has led to a \$20 billion maintenance backlog needs when other public lands are included.

The Great American Outdoor Act would establish the National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Fund, which would direct up to \$9.5 billion in non-taxpayer monies over five years to address priority repairs in national parks and on other public lands. This bipartisan legislation will not only rebuild our national parks and public lands infrastructure throughout the country, but also deliver much-needed jobs in rural areas that have been especially hard hit by the pandemic-created recession.

In closing, the Highway Material Group urges a yes vote on final passage of H.R. 1957, the Great American Outdoors (GAO) Act.

Sincerely,

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 Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association  
Portland Cement Association  
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute