

July 13, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1026 Longworth Rayburn House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, and Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, and Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
404 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

On behalf of the 400 members of the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA), I am writing to thank you for your leadership in advancing the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill. Your work to draft and move this legislation through the Committee during these difficult times is critical to addressing our nation's infrastructure shortfalls and delivering economic prosperity.

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 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.

NSSGA members strongly support the robust funding levels you have provided in this legislation that will improve our roads, build affordable housing, deliver efficient transit and air networks and grow our ports. These are past-due investments that will drive economic recovery, create high-paying jobs and provide much greater returns that improve our communities and the livelihoods of all Americans. Specifically, we would like to thank you for providing \$61.3 billion in funding for our highway programs, while also adding an additional \$1 billion in discretionary funding and providing \$1 billion for National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER/BUILD) grants.

Further, we appreciate your inclusions of additional emergency spending that will provide needed relief to support COVID-19 response and drive further infrastructure development that will help our country heal and recover. We also share your concern with "the significant toll that the coronavirus-19 pandemic has taken on the budgets and staff of state departments of transportation" and greatly appreciate your work to ensure a federal backstop is provided and to

eliminate state match requirements for Federal funds. It is critical that you continue bipartisan work with your colleagues to move this much needed emergency spending for our state DOTs in the next month to address the immediate challenges caused by the pandemic and allow hardworking American to continue delivering infrastructure improvements for our country.

NSSGA members strongly agree, “Infrastructure Week shouldn’t be a punchline”. It is no laughing matter that our crumbling, outdated, and overused systems are harming livelihoods, hurting the environment and leaving our nation at a competitive disadvantage on the world stage. That is why we are extremely grateful for your serious leadership to provide the resources necessary for our nation tackle this tremendous challenge.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions and we look forward to working with you on these important issues.

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 and Gravel Association