

September 8, 2020

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader of the Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the 400 members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I am writing to commend your recent agreement with the Administration to advance appropriations legislation prior to the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 on September 30<sup>th</sup>. It is imperative that Congress enacts spending legislation in the coming weeks to remove the threat of a government shutdown and deliver, at least temporary, certainty for American families, businesses and the aggregates industry that are reeling from the pandemic.

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.

The U.S. Constitution is clear-- the power of the purse resides in Congress. A top priority for every lawmaker is to enact annual appropriations that fund our federal agencies and support their constituents. As you know, this funding is paramount to the lives of every American providing vital healthcare; housing and aid for those suffering; support for children returning to school; innovative research and development necessary for new cures; funding to protect our homeland and keep our nation safe; and help communities recover from disasters like Hurricane Laura and the recent flooding in the Midwest.

In addition, responsibly funded federal agencies and programs are essential for the operations of all businesses and allowing them to shutter due to Congressional inaction will have a dramatic impact on our economy. Critical federal permitting, safety inspections and regulatory oversight will be delayed – a fully funded Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is important to aggregates operators as we work together to advance miner safety. Further, support for planning and developing transportation projects, public works and energy development will come to a standstill. Trade and the movement of commerce will be hampered and assistance for businesses large and small that are still suffering from the pandemic will be limited. As we are facing unemployment numbers, recession figures, and business uncertainty not seen in generations – Congressional inaction will only lead to more job-loss, boarded up main street businesses and despair that will be felt throughout the entire economy.

Ensuring these essential federal services and resources remain operational is important to the members of NSSGA and their families and communities. We greatly appreciate the work by members on the Appropriations Committees, especially in the House of Representatives to advance FY 2021 spending measures, including the FY 2021 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill that includes key investments in road, bridges, airports, transit and housing that is critical to driving our economic return.

We appreciate your leadership to address this essential priority, putting aside partisan disagreements, and removing the threat of a government shutdown. These actions will give greater certainty to our nation and allow more time to finalize FY 2021 appropriations that will lead to more jobs, opportunities and advance our country out of the pandemic.

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: Members of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress