

October 7, 2020

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

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
United States Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Secretary Mnuchin

I am writing to urge you to continue working on a legislative package that will support our nation as we battle the COVID-19 pandemic, and includes targeted relief for the State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) that have seen drastic cuts due to the public health crisis. State DOT revenue losses were massive, and right at the height of the highway construction season, at least \$37 billion is needed to fill this funding gap. Immediate aid is imperative to prevent further disruptions to planned transportation projects and allow state DOT employees and transportation construction workers to remain on the job. Without funding in the next few weeks, an entire construction season could be lost, putting up to 250,000 jobs at risk.

NSSGA represents over 400 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. It is our members who make possible the very projects that are being halted due to the current economic hardships.

COVID-19 is affecting every aspect of our economy, leading to an unprecedented crisis and record unemployment. We continue to see drastic budget shortfalls in state DOTs, which is quite alarming for those who depend on the roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, and water systems in their local communities. In fact, there have been almost \$10 billion in canceled or delayed projects by state DOTs nationwide.

As you know, NSSGA is not alone in this request. This is a [top priority](#) for all sectors within the construction and transportation industry and the labor organizations that represent the workers whose jobs are in peril. There is considerable bipartisan support throughout Congress, including 137 members of the House of Representatives who signed [this “Dear Colleague”](#) letter and 26 members of the Senate who signed [this “Dear Colleague”](#) letter.

Supporting struggling DOTs, will not only allow infrastructure development to continue, but will have the added benefit of reversing the economic impact of COVID-19 and delivering new jobs that will lead our nation back to its economic heights. It is no secret, providing opportunities to the construction worker or planning engineer, is not only good for their families, but delivers 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. There is no better economic stimulus than investing in infrastructure – it delivers greater return than any other tax cut, direct payment, or stimulus measure.

On behalf of all NSSGA members, I strongly urge you to bring forward a relief package this month that addresses the current shortfalls in state DOTs 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: Chairman John Barrasso, Chairman Richard Shelby, Chairman Peter DeFazio, Chairwoman Nita Lowey