July 14, 2015

Dear Senator,

We respectfully urge Congress to act now to pass a multiyear surface transportation reauthorization bill. The Highway Materials Group (HMG) is comprised of nine national associations listed below. Our organizations provide the construction materials and equipment essential to building America’s roads, highways, and bridges and employ tens of thousands of men and women in well-paying American jobs. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee unanimously approved the Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy (DRIVE) Act on June 24. This six-year surface transportation bill contains meaningful policy reforms and increases investment levels while maintaining broad bipartisan support. An achievement like this lays the groundwork for action on a full bill and should not be squandered.

America’s economic vitality depends on an integrated, national intermodal surface transportation network that moves goods and people efficiently and safely; maximizes global competitiveness; and assures quality of life, and economic prosperity for all citizens. As a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), the United States spends less on infrastructure today than at any point in the last 50 years. We now spend just 2.4% of our GDP on public infrastructure. Continuing down this path is unacceptable.

With approximately 65% of major roads rated in less than good condition and one in nine bridges structurally deficient, now is the time to pass a robustly funded six-year surface transportation reauthorization. We must overcome the Highway Trust Fund crisis and break the cycle of delays and extensions, effectively setting America back on the path of being the global infrastructure leader. At present, with more than $50 billion in deficit spending resulting from short-term policy extensions and funding patches from the government’s general fund, Congress is shifting the burden to future generations. Congressional delay in federal investments to our highways, roads, and bridges only makes it more difficult and expensive to finance this critical national priority.

Congress has the constitutional responsibility to maintain a vital national transportation system. We stand in strong support of passage of a six-year surface transportation reauthorization bill at minimum DRIVE Act investment levels by July 31 over another temporary extension.

Thank you for your leadership in moving forward on this vitally important economic investment for our citizens and our country.

Sincerely,

American Coal Ash Association
American Concrete Pavement Association
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Associated Equipment Distributors
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute

National Asphalt Pavement Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
Portland Cement Association