

North American Concrete Alliance

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

As the 117th Congress convenes, the North American Concrete Alliance (NACA) and our members look forward to working with you on priorities that can reach bipartisan compromise. Primarily, we urge Congress to swiftly pass bipartisan legislation that will repair our nation's failing infrastructure. The accelerating deterioration of our nation's roads, bridges and other facilities threatens our competitiveness, prosperity and well-being, and addressing it becomes costlier every day. In addition, the cement and concrete industry understands the role we must play in addressing climate change and encourages Congress to increase federal carbon capture technology investment.

As you may know, NACA is a coalition of concrete-related associations dedicated to addressing industry-wide priorities in research, education, and government affairs. The cement and concrete industry, directly and indirectly, employs approximately 600,000 people in our country, and our collective industries contribute more than \$100 billion to the U.S. economy. Not only are cement and concrete essential construction materials and basic components of our nation's infrastructure, but our members rely on a well-functioning transportation system to efficiently move our product to market. Specifically, our members rely on a well-functioning freight network, including rail and waterways, as well as federal and state highway systems to deliver our products in a timely and safe manner.

Every construction project in America requires cement and concrete. These materials are critical to building resilient, durable infrastructure and constructing residential and commercial buildings that will withstand the impacts of climate change and the effects of natural disasters. With a rise in annual billion-dollar disasters and the economic and environmental costs associated with rebuilding, it is imperative that America's next infrastructure investment lasts for generations.

A long-term transportation reauthorization bill must provide robust funding to address the investment gap and include a long-term sustainable funding mechanism for the Highway Trust Fund. Funding certainty is critical to states and communities moving forward with transportation projects to address the backlog in construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation and maintenance on our roadways and bridges.

Finally, manufacturers face unique and fundamental challenges associated with further decarbonizing the cement industry. While energy efficiency and alternative fuels will continue to be critical components of

the industry's decarbonation strategy, 60% of the industry's CO2 emissions result from the chemical process of manufacturing cement. Great strides have been made in science and academia to lay the groundwork for impacting this market and advancing us to carbon neutrality. The deadlines cited by scientists for global action will continue to be a challenge to meet without accelerating technological development. The focus on industrial sectors like the cement industry requires targeted federal funding and financial incentives to move the technology from the demonstration and pilot stage to commercial-scale use. Significant investment in infrastructure to support reliable transportation and storage of CO2 is also required. While Congress made considerable strides to increase investment in carbon capture technologies during the 116th Congress, such attention and resources should continue to assure those gains are not lost.

NACA looks forward to working with you to pass legislation that will spur economic growth while also addressing years of underinvestment in transportation across the country.

Sincerely,

Jerry Voigt
President & CEO
American Concrete Pavement Association

Robert D. Thomas
President
National Concrete Masonry Association

Doug Dayton
President & CEO
American Concrete Pipe Association

Frederick H. Grubbe
President
National Precast Concrete Association

Richard I. Mueller
President
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association

Michael Philipps
President
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association

Christi Collins
Executive Director
American Concrete Pumping Association

Bob Risser
President & CEO
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute

James Baty
Executive Director
Concrete Foundations Association

Mike Ireland
President & CEO
Portland Cement Association

Danielle Kleinhans
President & CEO
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute

Mitch Bloomquist
Executive Director
Tilt-Up Concrete Association

Cc: All members of the U.S. Senate & U.S. House of Representatives