

October 20, 2015

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Highways and Transit Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
Ranking Member
House Highways and Transit Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Holmes Norton:

The National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA) supports the passage of *The Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act (STRRA) of 2015* that you will introduce this week in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As the industry that supplies the essential building materials for our nation's roads and highways, we have long supported passage of a robust six-year surface transportation authorization bill with at minimum Senate DRIVE Act investment levels. Although we are sensitive to the challenges of reconciling the differences regarding the federal funding of our nation's highways, airports, and bridges; NSSGA is hopeful this discrepancy will be resolved in a conference committee on the legislation.

The certainty that a long-term bill provides allows state and local governments to move forward on needed surface transportation projects. Our members are ready to continue to work with government agencies to reduce congestion and increase safety of roads and bridges by improving our infrastructure. The bill also will promote economic prosperity, create well-paying American jobs and address the increasing needs of our nation's aging surface transportation network. The aggregates industry applauds the enhanced reforms and innovation contained in the bill, particularly the increased coordination of environmental and permitting review, creation of a freight program and establishment of a centralized bureau that will improve service for grantees.

NSSGA urges the House to act quickly to adopt this legislation in order that a conference can be convened with the Senate to reconcile differences and result in a bill being signed into law before the holiday season. Investing in our nation's surface transportation network is a win for all Americans and is imperative to continued economic growth, maintaining global competitiveness, cleaner air and safer roads. Most importantly, it is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Johnson
NSSGA President and CEO