

North American Concrete Alliance

June 29, 2020

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 Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

America's economic vitality depends on an integrated, national transportation network that moves both goods and people efficiently and safely while assuring quality of life and economic prosperity for all citizens. We are encouraged by the action of the House of Representatives to advance a proposal that increases infrastructure funding. Nevertheless, Congress should use the coming months to pass **bipartisan** legislation that continues to support robust investment in infrastructure with a sustainable long-term funding mechanism for the Highway Trust Fund.

The North American Concrete Alliance (NACA) is a coalition of 12 concrete-related trade associations dedicated to addressing industry-wide priorities in the areas of research, education and government affairs. Cement and concrete product manufacturing directly and indirectly employs approximately 610,000 people across the country, and our collective industries contribute more than \$125 billion to the economy. NACA advocates for increased and efficient federal investment in surface transportation and infrastructure.

With the recent impact of COVID-19, state Departments of Transportation (DOTs) are projecting, on average, a 30% revenue decline over the next 18 months. Additionally, revenue from the Highway Trust Fund dropped 49% in May 2020 compared to May 2019. Now, more than ever, we need Congress to come together to provide a sustainable funding mechanism for these federal highway and transit programs prior to their expiration on September 30, 2020.

As the House of Representatives is poised to pass the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2), NACA is encouraged by the robust funding levels provided in the bill, including \$500 billion for the INVEST in America Act. NACA is also encouraged by the bill's focus on expanding infrastructure financing options.

Several provisions within the Moving Forward Act are important to cement and concrete-related industries. NACA looks forward to working with Congress in ways to support and enhance these provisions:

- Increasing the authorization for the Airport Improvement Program to \$4 billion for fiscal years 2021-2025 and expanding AIP eligibilities to include projects to improve airport resiliency to natural disasters.
- Requiring states to spend 20 percent of their NHPP and Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) dollars on bridge repair and rehabilitation projects, amounting to \$28 billion between FY 2022-2025
- Providing more than \$9 billion for projects of national significance - large highway, transit, and freight projects - that cannot be funded through annual apportionments or other discretionary sources.

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- Ensuring all the annual receipts in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are invested annually and invested in harbor maintenance needs across the country.
- Providing \$10 billion to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction account to address the backlog of authorized water resources development projects and \$5 billion in operation and maintenance funding for backlogged Corps projects.
- Reauthorizing the Clean Water State Revolving Fund through fiscal years 2021 through 2025 at \$8 billion in authorized funding annually.
- Improving resiliency by authorizing a new grant program for wastewater utilities to assess and address future risks associated with manmade and natural disasters, extreme weather events and sea-level rise.
- Reauthorizing the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund through fiscal year 2025 for a total of \$19.94 billion in funding for fiscal years 2022 through 2025.
- Authorizing a new revolving loan fund for states to fund projects to reduce disaster risks for homeowners, businesses, nonprofit organizations and communities in order to decrease the loss of life and property and any other event deemed catastrophic by FEMA.
- Reestablishing the Build America Bond Program to provide direct financing support for infrastructure investments made by state and local governments.
- Increasing the annual state volume cap on private activity bonds and increasing the limitation on the use of qualified highway or surface transportation facility bonds.

As the House of Representatives considers this transformational infrastructure bill, and looks for ways to rebuild America, we urge Congress to embrace a bipartisan approach to deliver critically important infrastructure investments ahead of looming reauthorization deadlines and additional infrastructure lapses. NACA members are eager to help advance this legislative priority and stand ready to be a resource for Congress as important deliberations and debate continue.

Sincerely,

American Concrete Pavement Association
American Concrete Pipe Association
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association
American Concrete Pumping Association
Concrete Foundations Association
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute

National Concrete Masonry Association
National Precast Concrete Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute
Portland Cement Association
Tilt-Up Concrete Association