



April 9, 2020

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

On behalf of the Highway Materials Group (HMG), we thank you for your continued leadership and work to address the unprecedented public health and economic impacts due to the spread of COVID-19. While you and your colleagues continue to discuss various federal relief and economic packages our country desperately needs, we write to express our strong support granting the immediate use of \$49.95 billion in flexible federal funding to offset the significant revenues shortfalls facing state Department of Transportation (DoT) budgets.

The HMG is comprised of 11 national trade associations whose members provide the materials and equipment necessary to build America's transportation infrastructure and employ tens of thousands of hard-working men and women in well-paying American jobs. Our members work across the country with local and state DoT officials on critical public works projects that enable the delivery of medical supplies, food and essential goods that are needed to overcome the crisis. This work is paramount to our economy as we improve commerce, congestion, water and energy delivery and so much more.

As you well know, state and local governments who are on the front lines of fighting the virus, delivering benefits and providing critical emergency services, are facing daunting budget shortfalls. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) calculates that state DoT budgets will experience at least a 30 percent revenue drop over the next 18 months as vehicle and mass transit travel continues to decrease.¹ These funds are necessary in order to prevent major disruptions in their ability to operate and maintain their transportation systems during this national emergency. Without Congressional action, state DoT budgets will be severely limited in allocating much-needed investments to improve their infrastructure, resulting in further job loss and economic decline.

We greatly appreciate your quick leadership to establish the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the CARES Act, which provides billions in needed relief to state and local governments. As you work on further relief measures, we strongly urge you to continue to provide needed appropriations into this important

¹ American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials April 6th Letter to Congressional leadership



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fund that reimburses state and local governments that are caring for the sick and helping those facing economic uncertainty.

Thank you for your consideration and we appreciate your leadership during these trying and uncertain times. Though COVID-19 has undoubtedly created interruptions in our daily lives, our industries, along with the rest of the country, will push through and we will be a better nation because of it.

Sincerely,

American Coal Ash Association
American Concrete Pavement Association
American Traffic Safety Services Association
Associated Equipment Distributors
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute
National Asphalt Pavement Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
Portland Cement Association
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute