



MISSOURI LIMESTONE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

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April 20, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blunt:

On behalf of the 158 members of the Missouri Limestone Producers Association, thank you for your leadership and work combating the COVID-19 pandemic by providing much-needed relief for the healthcare industry and working Americans and businesses across the country. As you and your colleagues continue to consider future recovery packages to restart the national economy, we respectfully urge you to take action to rebuild and modernize America's infrastructure as part of the next legislative response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the enactment of a robust reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs before the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* expires on September 30, 2020, will lead to long-term economic growth for the entire nation.

Securing future highway investment growth now would provide economic security for Missouri, which is now faced with an estimated 30% decline in transportation infrastructure revenues over the next 18 months as more Americans avoid commuting and mass transit.¹ This 30% decline in revenues equals \$925 million in state revenues, resulting in the Missouri Department of Transportation losing the ability to leverage an additional \$2.1 billion in federal funds. Losing the ability to leverage these federal funds could result in 400 bridges and 20,000 miles of Missouri's roadways not being repaired.

According to the 2015 U.S. Transportation Construction Industry profile, the design, construction and maintenance of transportation infrastructure in Missouri supports the equivalent of 79,083 full-time jobs across all sectors of the state economy. This results in a payroll for Missouri workers equal to \$2.9 billion annually, which leads to the generation of an estimated \$564 million in federal, state and local taxes. An additional 1,250,475 full-time jobs in Missouri in key industries like tourism, retail sales, agriculture and manufacturing are completely dependent on the state's transportation infrastructure network. These workers earn \$45.1 billion in wages and contribute an estimated \$8.2 billion in additional taxes. Simply put, Missouri's entire economy depends on transportation infrastructure.

Including substantial infrastructure investment as you address our Nation's economic recovery, would employ tens of thousands of Missouri workers and address the backlog of critical public works projects across the country. Infrastructure is a bi-partisan solution, as illustrated by the Senate Environment & Public Works (EPW) Committee's unanimous passage of S. 2302, the *America's Transportation*

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

Infrastructure Act (ATIA) last summer. ATIA reauthorizes the Federal-aid Highway Program for five years and, if passed, would be the largest highway bill ever authorized by Congress.

On April 6, 2020, the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AAHSTO) urged Congress to fund \$49.95 billion in revenues across the states to offset the 30% decline in transportation funding. This funding will help cover Missouri's revenue losses and will keep Missouri's working and our transportation infrastructure safe. The Missouri Limestone Producers Association supports this idea and hopes that you will support it, as well as the ATIA, through your work in Congress.

Reauthorizing surface transportation programs, and providing \$49.95 billion as an immediate revenue backstop to state DOT's, would create and sustain thousands of Missouri jobs and generate millions of dollars in tax revenue, while the capital assets constructed would yield economic activity for future generations. We urge you to facilitate the passage these measures as part of any COVID-19 recovery stimulus to help Missourians, and Americans, overcome the impending economic decline.

Sincerely,

Morgan Mundell
Executive Director