June 10, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Ryan:

The Highway Materials Group (HMG) is comprised of nine national associations listed below. Our organizations provide the construction materials and equipment essential to building America’s roads, highways, and bridges, and also employ tens of thousands of people. We respectfully urge the House Ways and Means Committee to hold a public hearing as soon as possible to discuss long-term funding for a surface transportation authorization bill. The need for a funding source that is sustainable, dedicated to transportation, and provides sufficient revenue for a six-year reauthorization deserves resolution now.

America’s economic vitality depends on an integrated, national intermodal surface transportation network that moves goods and people efficiently and safely; maximizes global competitiveness; and assures quality of life, and economic prosperity for all citizens. We must overcome the Highway Trust Fund crisis and break the cycle of delays and extensions, effectively setting America back on the path of being the global infrastructure leader. Your committee will consider options and ultimately decide the funding solution so federal and state transportation departments are able to plan and make critical investments in our nation’s transportation infrastructure.

At present, with more than $50 billion in deficit spending resulting from short-term policy extensions and funding patches from the government’s general fund, Congress is shifting the burden to future generations. Congressional delay in federal investments to our highways, roads, and bridges only makes it more difficult and expensive to finance this critical national priority.

Congress has the constitutional responsibility to maintain a vital national transportation system and your committee bears most of that responsibility. We stand in support of a substantive hearing that leads to a solution of the federal funding crisis and robustly funds our nation’s transportation and transit infrastructure. We would be pleased to provide testimony, if so requested.

Thank you for your leadership in moving forward on this vitally important economic investment for our citizens and our country.
Sincerely,

Thomas H. Adams  
Executive Director  
American Coal Ash Association

Dennis J. Slater  
President  
Association of Equipment Manufactures

Bob Risser  
President & CEO  
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute

Robert Garbini  
President  
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association

Jim Toscas  
President & CEO  
Portland Cement Association

Jerry Voigt  
President & CEO  
American Concrete Pavement Association

Brian P. McGuire  
President & CEO  
Associated Equipment Distributors

Mike Acott  
President & CEO  
National Asphalt Pavement Association

Michael W. Johnson  
President & CEO  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association

Cc: The Honorable Sander Levin, Ranking Member