May 13, 2020

Dear Members of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate:

The state asphalt pavement associations around the United States include asphalt producers, asphalt refiners, paving contractors, testing labs, consulting engineers, and product suppliers. Our members represent hundreds of thousands of jobs around the country. Our members are following current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other health and safety guidelines to ensure our workers and the public remain safe on the jobsite. However, our members are increasingly concerned with the economic impact COVID-19 is having on the asphalt pavement industry and our economy.

Maintaining our states’ current highway programs is becoming increasingly difficult as state highway revenues plummet due to the impacts from the coronavirus. This has prompted the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to submit a request to Congress for $49.95 billion in relief to ensure they can carry out their capital highway construction and other critical transportation programs over the next 18 months.

The construction season is also impacted by the need for Congress to reauthorize the FAST Act authorization before the September 30, 2020, deadline when the Act expires. The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly shown the importance of our highways, roads, and bridges that make up the National Highway System. During a time of crisis, the movement of supplies and emergency personnel is paramount and essential to the continuation of life. Only a system that has been properly maintained can ensure this. Currently, the amount of passenger vehicles on the roads is significantly down; however, as the nation begins to reopen, people will value traveling in private vehicles to limit their exposure risk to COVID-19. The backlog of highway and bridge investment needs now totals nearly $800 billion. The sooner Congress acts on reauthorizing Federal-aid Highway programs, the sooner our industry will be able to provide jobs for displaced workers due to the current pandemic.

We wholeheartedly endorse AASHTO’s request for relief in order to prevent projects from being delayed or cancelled in the current construction season. Furthermore, we urge all members of Congress to work toward enacting legislation that reauthorizes the FAST Act for at least five years to give state transportation departments and contractors the certainty they need to deliver highway, road, and bridge projects. Congress must act to stabilize the current highway construction season, shore up the Highway Trust Fund, and grow highway investments. This can be achieved when Congress takes up a multi-year reauthorization bill.
In closing, providing immediate relief for state transportation departments and enacting a robust Federal-aid Highway program authorization will jumpstart the economy, provide jobs, and build the infrastructure that allows all Americans to prosper in the 21st century. We appreciate your actions and leadership to date and stand ready to assist you in your efforts to restore America’s economy.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Mel Monk, P.E.
Executive Director
Alabama Asphalt Pavement Association

Park Estes
Executive Director
Arkansas Asphalt Pavement Association

Russell W. Snyder, CAE
Executive Director
California Asphalt Pavement Association

Thomas Peterson, PE.
Executive Director
Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association

Ken Swedeen
Ken Swedeen
Executive Director
Dakota Asphalt Pavement Association

Jay Miller
President
Delaware Asphalt Pavement Association

Mark Musselman
President
Asphalt Contractors Association of Florida

David Moellering
Executive Director
Georgia Asphalt Pavement Association

Jon M. Young, P.E.
Executive Director
Hawaii Asphalt Paving Industry
Abigail C. Bryduck  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Asphalt Pavement Association

Michael B. Arnemann  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Asphalt Pavement Association

Dale A. Williams, P.E.  
Executive Director  
Missouri Asphalt Pavement Association

Kevin Monaco  
Executive Director  
New Jersey Asphalt Pavement Association

Brian Paul Jones  
Executive Director  
Asphalt Pavement Association of New Mexico

Bruce Barkevich  
Vice President  
New York Construction Materials Association

Ellis Powell, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Carolina Asphalt Pavement Association

Clifford Ursich, P.E.  
President & Executive Director  
Flexible Pavements of Ohio

Larry E. Patrick  
Executive Director  
Oklahoma Asphalt Pavement Association

John Hickey, P.E., Esq.  
Executive Director  
Asphalt Pavement Association of Oregon
List of State Signatures on the Letter

Alabama Asphalt Pavement Association
Arkansas Asphalt Pavement Association
California Asphalt Pavement Association
Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association
Connecticut Asphalt & Aggregate Producers Association
Delaware Asphalt Pavement Association
Dakota Asphalt Pavement Association
Asphalt Contractors Association of Florida
Georgia Asphalt Pavement Association
Hawaii Asphalt Paving Industry
Illinois Asphalt Pavement Association
Asphalt Pavement Association of Indiana
Asphalt Paving Association of Iowa
Kansas Asphalt Pavement Association
Plantmix Asphalt Industry of Kentucky
Louisiana Asphalt Pavement Association
Maine Asphalt Pavement Association
The Maryland Asphalt Association
Massachusetts Aggregate & Asphalt Pavement Association
Asphalt Pavement Association of Michigan
Minnesota Asphalt Pavement Association
Mississippi Asphalt Pavement Association
Missouri Asphalt Pavement Association
New Jersey Asphalt Pavement Association
Asphalt Pavement Association of New Mexico
New York Construction Materials Association
Carolina Asphalt Pavement Association
Flexible Pavements of Ohio
Oklahoma Asphalt Pavement Association
Asphalt Pavement Association of Oregon
Pennsylvania Asphalt Pavement Association
South Carolina Asphalt Pavement Association
Tennessee Road Builders Association
Texas Asphalt Pavement Association
Utah Asphalt Pavement Association
Virginia Asphalt Association
Washington Asphalt Pavement Association
Asphalt Pavement Association of West Virginia
Wisconsin Asphalt Pavement Association