



**TRANSPORTATION
CONSTRUCTION
COALITION**

**We're Building A
Better America!**

American Road & Transportation Builders Association (co-chair) ■ Associated General Contractors of America (co-chair) ■ American Coal Ash Association ■ American Concrete Pavement Association ■ American Concrete Pipe Association ■ American Council of Engineering Companies ■ American Subcontractors Association ■ American Iron and Steel Institute ■ American Society of Civil Engineers ■ American Traffic Safety Services Association ■ Asphalt Emulsion Manufacturers Association ■ Asphalt Recycling & Reclaiming Association ■ Associated Equipment Distributors ■ Association of Equipment Manufacturers ■ Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute ■ International Slurry Surfacing Association ■ International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers ■ International Union of Operating Engineers ■ Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust ■ Laborers' International Union of North America ■ National Asphalt Pavement Association ■ National Association of Surety Bond Producers ■ National Ready Mixed Concrete Association ■ National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association ■ National Utility Contractors Association ■ Portland Cement Association ■ Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute ■ The Road Information Program ■ United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

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October 11, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi,

The twenty nine national associations and construction trade unions that comprise the Transportation Construction Coalition strongly support H.R. 2273 and urge swift passage this week by the House of Representatives. We believe enactment of H.R. 2273 provides a common-sense solution allowing for the responsible storage of coal combustion residuals (CCRs) without unnecessarily jeopardizing their use in sorely needed transportation improvements.

The bipartisan bill is designed to provide a federal baseline for safe CCR disposal, while at the same time, preventing the designation of CCRs as "hazardous" materials. This approach both addresses environmental concerns with CCR storage and provides regulatory certainty for the many transportation construction industries that use recycled fly-ash, a CCR, in road and bridge construction.

Fly ash enhances the performance, strength, durability, and lifespan of concrete. This, in turn creates the long-lasting, environmentally responsible roads, bridges and transit systems our nation relies on for commerce, international competition, and our valued way of life. Limiting the accessibility and use of fly ash by unnecessarily labeling it as "hazardous" will stigmatize the material, making it impossible to use in transportation construction. Such a scenario would jeopardize our nation's ability to maintain and grow our transportation infrastructure by unnecessarily decreasing the quality of concrete while increasing its cost.

We urge passage of H.R. 2273 by the House and expedited consideration by the Senate, as a means of preventing unnecessary designation of CCRs as "hazardous," an action which would severely impede both construction employment and needed improvements to the nation's surface transportation network.

While alleviating excessive regulatory actions is important to improve the overall business environment, there is also no denying the nation's inadequate transportation infrastructure is an impediment to economic growth and job creation. As such, Congress must also approve a multi-year reauthorization of the federal surface transportation programs that, at minimum, preserves current levels of highway and public transportation investment. Stabilizing the federal commitment to improving the nation's surface transportation infrastructure would provide a critical foundation for job growth in the construction sector and throughout the economy.

Sincerely,

The Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC)

Cc: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell