



**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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September 29, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

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. 2681 and urge swift passage next week by the House of Representatives. We believe enactment of H.R. 2681 will be a significant step towards recovery of the construction marketplace.

The bipartisan bill is designed to address a number of federal rulemaking challenges emanating from the Environmental Protection Agency which, if implemented in their current form, could lead to significant additional job losses in the cement industry and force the closure of up to 20 U.S. cement facilities, thereby constraining domestic production capacity.

As you know, cement is the key ingredient in concrete. It is used extensively in transportation infrastructure, integral to the construction of bridges, runways, highways, storm sewers and other components. Constrained supplies of cement resulting from the closure of cement plants would drive up the cost of infrastructure projects and potentially limit the number of projects that may be undertaken.

Reduced supplies of cement, or any other critical transportation construction material, would threaten to exacerbate what is already a dire situation in the construction sector—widespread job losses. The construction industry has been hardest hit by the Great Recession, where unemployment rates have hovered between 16 and 20 percent nationally for years.

We urge passage of H.R. 2681 by the House and expedited consideration by the Senate, as a means of remedying one of the many constraints holding back 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

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