

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Secretary Buttigieg:

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides you with a unique opportunity to directly confront the supply-chain challenges that are adversely impacting the U.S. economy and the daily lives of all Americans. We urge you to dedicate as much as allowable by law in discretionary grants for FY 2022 to support projects that will facilitate and ease the movement of goods.

Over the past two years, the supply chain has endured extreme slowdowns due to pandemic-related pressures. IHS Markit, a data research firm that constantly surveys businesses on their supply delivery times, found that, after a decade of constant or slightly declining delivery times, their index, starting in 2020, has signaled a substantial and widespread slowdown of the supply chain. Pandemic-induced record cargo volumes have put pressure on the supply chain leading to abnormally long loading and unloading times at seaports, inland ports, and throughout all modes of transportation when, prior to the pandemic, the system functioned smoothly.

With multi-modal traffic patterns returning to pre-pandemic levels while the supply-chain problems persist, the U.S. Department of Transportation should focus the \$18 billion in INFRA, MEGA and CRISI grant programs put forward over the next five years on making the physical improvements necessary to address these issues. Whether it is improvements to port infrastructure, addressing freight bottlenecks at major highway interchanges, or investing in grade separation projects, these investments will not only improve safety and air quality but will better the U.S. economy. Freight movement enhancements will help alleviate economic burdens and strengthen the goods movement network to better withstand future disruptions.

Sincerely,

American Road & Transportation Builders Association
Associated General Contractors of America
American Council of Engineering Companies
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
National Association of Manufacturers
American Trucking Associations
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association
Coalition for America's Gateways & Trade Corridors
Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA)
American Association of Port Authorities

American Highway Users Alliance
Associated Builders and Contractors
Airports Council International - North America
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
American Institute of Steel Construction
National Steel Bridge Alliance
American Subcontractors Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
Industrial Minerals Association - North America
International Diatomite Producers Association
National Roofing Contractors Association
FCA International
National Waste & Recycling Association
National Association of Surety Bond Producers
American Society of Concrete Contractors
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers
National Asphalt Pavement Association
Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute
National Concrete Masonry Association
Associated Wire Rope Fabricators
Design-Build Institute of America
Shippers Coalition
National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)
Subsurface Utility Engineering Association (SUEA)
U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization (U.S. GEO)
Portland Cement Association
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute
Associated Equipment Distributors
American Bus Association
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
National Demolition Association
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association
American Traffic Safety Services Association
Intermodal Association of North America
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute
American Iron and Steel Institute
Construction & Demolition Recycling Association
Women Construction Owners and Executives
Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association
American Concrete Pavement Association
Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association
American Coal Ash Association
National Coal Transportation Association

National Lime Association
The Association of Union Constructors (TAUC)
Consumer Brands Association
Association of American Railroads