

May 24, 2021

The Honorable Thomas Carper, Chairman
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

On behalf of the U.S. equipment manufacturing industry, and the 1,000 member companies that make up the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM), we write today to express our strong support for the *Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021*.

Equipment manufacturers are proud to support 2.8 million family-sustaining jobs – representing one in eight manufacturing jobs in the United States – and contribute \$288 billion a year to the nation's GDP. Our members supply a critical role in the construction and maintenance of our infrastructure assets. We are committed to rebuilding and modernizing our nation's roads, highways, and bridges so that we can grow our businesses, improve our quality of life, and protect our environment for future generations.

The *Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021* reflects many of the policies critical to keeping equipment manufacturers competitive in the global economy. It also takes an important bipartisan step forward in advancing the ongoing debate about the future of U.S. infrastructure. We applaud the leadership that you and the United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works have provided to build momentum and ensure swift passage of this important bill.

AEM particularly supports provisions in the current bill that ensure that state and local governments are provided with a multi-year, stable fiscal footing to plan and invest in infrastructure in the years ahead. The *Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021* also provides focused, critical assistance for infrastructure in rural areas and disadvantaged communities, which has long been a key priority for our industry.

The *Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021* notably bolsters workforce development, training, and education initiatives and programs aimed at recruiting the 21st century workforce into family-sustaining infrastructure careers. The additional funding provided to the Technology and Innovation Deployment Program is a critical step toward realizing the many benefits of digital construction technology in delivering projects more safely, more sustainably, and more efficiently.

Equipment manufacturers commend you and your colleagues on expeditiously moving an ambitious and bipartisan bill through the Committee, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure its swift passage by the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Slater". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dennis" and last name "Slater" clearly legible.

Dennis Slater
President
Association of Equipment Manufacturers

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works