

PERSPECTIVE:

Support the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

NSSGA[®]
NATIONAL STONE, SAND
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

H.R. 3684, the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA), provides meaningful federal investment into our nation's crumbling infrastructure while incorporating bipartisan, pragmatic policies that improve the regulatory permitting process and advance project delivery. The bill increases hard infrastructure investment in urban and rural communities alike, vastly improving our dilapidated road, bridge and highway surface network and provides local governments and industry certainty by incorporating a five-year surface transportation reauthorization. IIJA has received widespread support from hundreds of organizations representing business, labor and key community stakeholders. IIJA is widely supported by American voters and majorities in both political parties. Passing IIJA is a responsible step that delivers on promises made to improve our nation's infrastructure.

Sensible Funding Ensures Jobs, Advances Core Projects and Keeps America Competitive

While IIJA represents a total of \$1.2 trillion in federal infrastructure spending over five years, the package itself only adds \$550 billion in new spending authorizations for core infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges, highways, waterways, ports, airports, freight rail, transit, and energy infrastructure. This targeted funding will be leveraged by state and local partners to help modernize our outdated systems that are dragging our economy down. In addition to the threat to human safety of catastrophic failures such as bridge collapses, inadequately maintained roads, trains, and waterways cost billions of dollars in lost economic productivity. Independent studies have shown that the long-term spending for improving capital assets in the IIJA will improve economic efficiency and productivity, increase GDP, generate additional revenue, and will not increase inflation.

IIJA is an important step in keeping America competitive with our adversaries. It is estimated that [China spent \\$8 trillion on infrastructure investment in 2020](#), while the federal govern-



IN BRIEF:

The National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA) urges Congress to swiftly approve H.R. 3684, the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*.

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ment only spent \$146 billion on infrastructure in the U.S. When comparing [infrastructure spending related to GDP](#), China leads the world at 5.57 percent while U.S. investment only stands at 0.52 percent. It is no secret, China and other adversaries see the U.S. as a nation in decline. This bipartisan legislation sends a strong message to nations around the world that the U.S. can unite to improve our outdated systems, grow our economy and stay competitive on the world stage.

The bill's pay-fors leverage existing federal dollars and resources for infrastructure spending and **does not include controversial provisions like increases to the corporate or individual tax rate or Highway Trust Fund (HTF) user**

ABOUT NSSGA: Aggregates are the second most utilized product in the world and are the foundation to create buildings, roads, airports and bridges. They are indispensable in developing the infrastructure needed to access clean water; deliver reliable energy; and advance environmental stewardship. The National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA) represents more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel produced annually in the United States.

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fee revenue model. Further, while the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score reflects a \$256 billion increase to the deficit over 10 years, this number does not accurately explain the entire economic benefits IJA provides:

- The CBO score confirms what we know – half the revenue raised in IJA actually “scores”; the other half is paid for with savings and other revenue that does not score under CBO rules, but are real dollars like the \$53 billion in unemployment insurance savings or \$67 billion in 5G spectrum auction sales.
- The CBO report does not account for additional economic returns that are expected to result in the economic output of significant infrastructure investment.

The cost of inaction should be considered; what does our nation and economy lose if we do not provide the needed investments today to improve our congested roads, crumbling bridges, and other outdated infrastructure. Real economic harm is caused every day if we do not step up and address our failing systems. **IJA is the most responsible infrastructure bill that has come before the Congress in over a decade!**

Bipartisan Policies Streamline Federal Permitting, Strengthen the Construction Supply Chain, and Improve Aggregate Sourcing

Unlike previous efforts, IJA is not a partisan bill with minimal stakeholder input. **It advances numerous project delivery provisions, including environmental review and permitting reforms for highway and bridge projects.** The legislation codifies One Federal Decision for highway projects, which sets a two-year goal for completing the environmental review and permitting process for major projects and requires agencies to coordinate on a predictable, joint schedule. **Further, the bill ensures that 90% of the funding for highway and bridges is distributed by formula, giving states much need certainty to plan and keeping bureaucrats out of funding decisions** and includes \$40 billion in dedicated resources for bridges, which is critical to rural communities. NSSGA applauds the inclusion of various bipartisan policies that are important to the aggregates industry:

- Strategic exemptions to a broad expansion of Buy America for aggregates, stone, sand and gravel, cement and cementitious materials, asphalt binder and related inputs. Our industry supports Buy America, however these specific exemptions to expanding Buy America to cover construction materials will eliminate unintended consequences to the construction supply chain and ensure our materials are delivered in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- Incorporation of H.R. 611, the ROCKS Act, which would facilitate coordination between local, state and federal stakeholders regarding current and future aggregates needs for public works projects.
- Targeted funding similar to the REGROW Act to mitigate almost 56,000 orphaned wells across the nation that will improve the environment in impacted communities and create almost 13,000 new jobs.

Every State Benefits

IJA provides needed funding for core projects by providing a new surface transportation reauthorization baseline of roughly \$68.9 billion per year over the next five fiscal years. **Failure to act before September 30 would place our surface programs on a path of short-term extensions.** This would result in not only costing taxpayers more money, but also prohibit effective planning. Thriving communities need the ability to depend on projects to attract businesses for investment opportunities.

Click [here](#) to see how much more funding your state will receive to build roads and highway from the investments provided in IJA. This does not include additional programs set aside for bridge repair and other large infrastructure projects that are eligible to compete for other funding opportunities.

NSSGA urges you to support H.R. 3684 as this legislation will deliver more hard infrastructure dollars, without burdensome mandates, and sets our nation on a path of economic success.