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Assistant to the President and Director of the National Economic Council
Eisenhower Building
Executive Office of the President

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Mr. Hassett:

As suppliers of America's essential construction materials, we write to urge caution when setting tariffs on goods from foreign countries, particularly Canada and Mexico. Our organizations represent thousands of American businesses – primarily small, family-owned businesses – that produce aggregates, asphalt, cement and concrete. These products are used in every residential, commercial and public works project in America, many of which are funded with federal, taxpayer dollars.

We write to express our concern that tariffs on products that are widely used in public works construction – including aggregates, asphalt, cement and concrete – will significantly increase the cost of both public and private transportation and infrastructure projects.

For a variety of reasons, there is not a sufficient domestic supply – in some cases nationally and in some cases regionally – of raw materials within the US, creating a demand for imports of aggregates, cement and other components of asphalt and concrete – many of which are from Canada and Mexico. For example, the U.S. produces roughly 75% of the cement consumed on an annual basis, and there are large geographic areas of the country in which there are not naturally occurring rock suitable for highway construction. Recognition of these realities was the basis for the bipartisan exclusion of these products from expanded Buy America provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The impacts of a 25% tariff – or a tariff of any magnitude – on aggregates, cement and other products used to make asphalt and concrete would result in increased costs for:

- Federally funded and supported infrastructure projects, including federal share transportation projects undertaken by state departments of transportation, leading to increased outlays of taxpayer funds for the same number or potentially fewer projects
- Single family and multifamily residential construction, exacerbating the housing affordability crisis and further disincentivizing new residential construction
- Data centers and other information technology infrastructure that support the investment in artificial intelligence of this Administration

For these reasons, we urge the Administration to judiciously choose which products on which to apply tariffs and respectfully request that you carefully consider the second order effects of the tariffs in increasing federal spending and exacerbating vulnerable sectors of the economy.

Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to working with you to make America's transportation infrastructure great again.

Respectfully,

National Asphalt Pavement Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
Portland Cement Association