



AGC

THE CONSTRUCTION
ASSOCIATION

STEPHEN E. SANDHERR, Chief Executive Officer

July 14, 2021

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: AGC on Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework

Dear Senators Sinema and Portman:

The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)—the largest national commercial construction trade association, representing more than 27,000 firms—thoroughly appreciates you and your colleagues’ bipartisan efforts to invest significantly in our nation’s infrastructure. As you continue to develop legislation, AGC urges you to consider the following construction priorities:

Invest in the Construction Workforce. Do not tie infrastructure investments to new, partisan labor requirements—such as government-mandated project labor agreements, local hire requirements, and registered apprenticeship goals—that do nothing to invest in the existing federal construction workforce nor improve the pipeline for developing the future construction workforce. Instead, consider additional resources for bipartisan federal workforce development programs—like those through the Perkins Career and Technical Training Act and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act—and bipartisan policies to provide further flexibilities in federal student loan and grant programs included in the JOBS Act, S. 864. Furthermore, the long-term, robust infrastructure investment you propose will alone create a significant number of new construction career opportunities that traditionally pay well above jobs in other industries.

Streamline the Federal Environmental Review and Permitting Process. Include still needed, significant provisions to streamline the federal environmental review and permitting processes in ways that reduce administrative redundancies without jeopardizing substantive environmental protections. Americans expect that increased investment in infrastructure will lead to sustainable projects in their communities being completed more expeditiously.

Improve the Construction Supply Chain; Don’t Restrict it Further. Construction materials remain at record high prices and face continued availability challenges as a result of the pandemic. Congress should not make things worse by expanding domestic manufacturing requirements to include “construction materials,” including, but not limited to cement, asphalt and aggregates.

Allow for Expansion of Highway Capacity. Restrictions on states to build new highway capacity would have a negative economic effect on the roadway construction industry, particularly some small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) construction firms. These small businesses mostly construct new roads and bridges and do not have the financial means necessary to adapt their equipment fleets to a new business model. It is imperative that increased federal investment in the nation’s infrastructure create jobs and allow businesses of all sizes to flourish.

We look forward to working with all members of Congress to ensure that the final legislative product garners the bipartisan support needed to be enacted into law.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Sandherr
Chief Executive Officer