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September 24, 2019

Hon. Andrew R. Wheeler  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

I write to you on behalf of the construction industry and workers in the State of California whose livelihood would be negatively impacted by a loss of federal highway funding as well as delays in new source review permits, as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has threatened in a letter to the California Air Resources Board dated today. Federal highway funding has long been a tool used to ensure cooperation and compliance. However, a loss of funding would only penalize the very communities the Clean Air Act was intended to protect: failing to deliver on vital infrastructure and improvements to air quality.

AGC appreciates the Trump Administration's efforts to streamline the environmental review and permitting process to deliver infrastructure in a timely manner. These efforts could lead to real improvements in our nation's quality of life within a quicker timeframe. Congestion continues to exact a toll on our nation's economic and environmental health. The [2019 Urban Mobility Report](#) shows that the cost of congestion --- from wasted time and fuel --- has nearly doubled in 2017 over the cost per average commuter in 1982. Furthermore, congestion caused 3.3 billion gallons of wasted fuel and related emissions in 2017.

AGC supports the Agency's stated commitments to improve air quality and to reduce the backlog in state implementation plans. AGC urges the Agency to work with California on air quality and to provide a grace period sufficient to allow California to update and finalize their state plans. Using federal highway funding as a cudgel is counterproductive to the Administration's promise to deliver on infrastructure and the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jimmy Christianson'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Jimmy Christianson  
Vice President, Government Relations, Associated General Contractors of America