

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Secretary Buttigieg:

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides you with a unique opportunity to directly confront the supply-chain challenges that are adversely impacting the U.S. economy and the daily lives of all Americans. We urge you to dedicate as much as allowable by law in discretionary grants for FY 2022 to support projects that will facilitate and ease the movement of goods.

Over the past two years, the supply chain has endured extreme slowdowns due to pandemic-related pressures. IHS Markit, a data research firm that constantly surveys businesses on their supply delivery times, found that, after a decade of constant or slightly declining delivery times, their index, starting in 2020, has signaled a substantial and widespread slowdown of the supply chain. Pandemic-induced record cargo volumes have put pressure on the supply chain leading to abnormally long loading and unloading times at seaports, inland ports, and throughout all modes of transportation when, prior to the pandemic, the system functioned smoothly.

With multi-modal traffic patterns returning to pre-pandemic levels while the supply-chain problems persist, the U.S. Department of Transportation should focus the \$18 billion in INFRA, MEGA and CRISI grant programs put forward over the next five years on making the physical improvements necessary to address these issues. Whether it is improvements to port infrastructure, addressing freight bottlenecks at major highway interchanges, or investing in grade separation projects, these investments will not only improve safety and air quality but will better the U.S. economy. Freight movement enhancements will help alleviate economic burdens and strengthen the goods movement network to better withstand future disruptions.

Sincerely,

American Road & Transportation Builders Association  
Associated General Contractors of America  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
National Association of Manufacturers  
American Trucking Associations  
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors  
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association  
Coalition for America's Gateways & Trade Corridors  
Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA)  
American Association of Port Authorities

American Highway Users Alliance  
Associated Builders and Contractors  
Airports Council International - North America  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
American Institute of Steel Construction  
National Steel Bridge Alliance  
American Subcontractors Association  
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association  
Industrial Minerals Association - North America  
International Diatomite Producers Association  
National Roofing Contractors Association  
FCA International  
National Waste & Recycling Association  
National Association of Surety Bond Producers  
American Society of Concrete Contractors  
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers  
National Asphalt Pavement Association  
Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute  
National Concrete Masonry Association  
Associated Wire Rope Fabricators  
Design-Build Institute of America  
Shippers Coalition  
National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)  
Subsurface Utility Engineering Association (SUEA)  
U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization (U.S. GEO)  
Portland Cement Association  
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
American Bus Association  
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association  
National Demolition Association  
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association  
American Traffic Safety Services Association  
Intermodal Association of North America  
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute  
American Iron and Steel Institute  
Construction & Demolition Recycling Association  
Women Construction Owners and Executives  
Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association  
American Concrete Pavement Association  
Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association  
American Coal Ash Association  
National Coal Transportation Association

National Lime Association  
The Association of Union Constructors (TAUC)  
Consumer Brands Association  
Association of American Railroads