

December 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C 20510

Dear Appropriations Leadership,

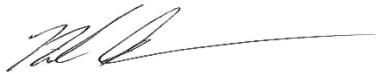
The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) is the lone trade association representing over 1,000 companies involved in asphalt pavement production and paving application across the nation. Our industry produces over 400 million tons of asphalt pavement every year, supporting close to 350,000 jobs nationwide and totaling over \$30 billion invested value. Asphalt comprises roughly 94% of the roadway market, and over 80% of the airfield pavement market, being the most flexible and sustainable pavement material. NAPA members operate ~3,500 mix plants located in virtually every Congressional district, coast to coast, border to border. Asphalt mix plants provide the critical materials needed to build and maintain the nation's almost 4 million roadway miles.

This year, natural and man-made disasters including shipwrecks, wildfires, flooding, and hurricanes have plagued the nation's critical infrastructure network from Florida to Maryland to California. These disasters have crippled regional transportation networks in effected areas and curtailed the ability of the American people to return to their daily lives, receive assistance and conduct everyday commerce. In North Carolina alone, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC-DOT) identified over 7,000 roadway damage points and 1,200 road closures from Hurricane Helene - which the NC-DOT believes will cost around \$10 billion to repair<sup>1</sup>. In Maryland, the Key Bridge collapse caused over \$1.5 billion in infrastructure damage and closed a critical regional transportation corridor, previously carrying over 30,000 vehicles per day, temporarily shutting down the Port of Baltimore<sup>2</sup>.

Given the size and scope of these impacts, it would be impossible for States to deliver these vital road repairs without the support of Congress. For decades, Congress has appropriated funds for disaster relief efforts, and this process should be no different given the impacts from these extraordinary events disrupting local roadways. The cost of such federal disaster relief funds will be just a fraction of the economic return on investment for those impacted communities and rebuilding local roads will help communities reconnect and remain economically competitive. Without such funding, communities like Baltimore and Western North Carolina will continue to suffer. It is imperative that Congress passes disaster relief for the economic health of these impacted communities and entire country.

We encourage Congress to pass disaster relief measures to help those communities most impacted by these tragic events and rebuild their roadway network faster and stronger than ever. Our members and our industry stand ready to rebuild our nation's critical surface transportation network and we offer ourselves as a resource as these critical road projects are reconstructed. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this important matter and we look forward to seeing Congress securing this critical funding for the American people.

Thank you,



Nile Elam, Vice President of Government Affairs

<sup>1</sup> <https://ncnewsline.com/2024/11/08/with-thousands-of-miles-of-road-damaged-by-helene-nc-lays-groundwork-for-repairs/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/maryland-officials-release-timeline-cost-estimate-for-rebuilding-francis-scott-key-bridge>

CC:

The Honorable Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson

The Honorable House Minority Leader, Hakem Jeffries

The Honorable Senate Majority Leader, Chuck Schumer

The Honorable Senate Minority Leader, Mitch McConnell