



January 28, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate
170 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Capito, Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and Ranking Member Larsen:

As you prepare to lead congressional efforts to write the next surface transportation authorization bill, I urge you to prioritize measures that will maximize support for American manufacturing, construction, and economic growth. [Common Sense America](#) (CSA) advocates for policies that strengthen U.S. economic independence and improve national security, and this year's reauthorization has the potential to lay a strong foundation for future generations.

The investments that you will make through this critical piece of legislation have the potential to unleash a new era of American infrastructure development. To ensure that the benefits of that development are fully shared by American workers, it will be critical to include provisions that not only invest in transportation infrastructure but also rejuvenate America's manufacturing sector.

The Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act included [domestic requirements](#) for "iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials" used in federally funded infrastructure projects. While these requirements were an important first step, they failed to include other essential inputs. For example, [cement and cementitious materials](#) are excluded from that designation, raising serious questions about the quality of cement used in U.S. infrastructure projects. America's aging infrastructure has received [subpar ratings](#), and we urge Congress to invest in public infrastructure to secure our country, starting with our foundations.

Cement and concrete are the bread and butter of U.S. construction projects, forming the backbone of essential infrastructure, from highways, roads, and bridges to airport runways, ports, transit systems, and more. In the U.S., transportation infrastructure projects require [36.1 million metric tons](#) of cement each year. The legislation that you will write has the potential to increase those requirements and create demands that will also compete with the needs of data centers, housing, and other construction projects. Americans deserve to know there will be adequate supplies of reliable, American-made cement to enable these projects to move forward.

Yet cement manufacturing is under threat in the U.S., with [overly burdensome regulations](#) and plant closures contributing to industry headwinds. More concerning, cement [production declined in 2024](#), and 22% of cement consumed in the U.S. was imported that year.

Americans are on edge from recent infrastructure mishaps, some with tragic outcomes, such as the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Maryland. We can't afford to worry about the quality of the cement underpinning our transit systems that we use every day. That is why it is essential to use this year's surface transportation reauthorization to expand "Buy America" standards to include cement for government-funded infrastructure projects and promote import transparency.

The [cement and concrete industry](#) supports hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions in annual economic impact. Congress can help sustain economic growth here at home by ensuring that American infrastructure is built with high-quality U.S.-made cement.

On behalf of CSA, thank you for considering our letter. We commend your commitment to creating a safer, more prosperous America.

Sincerely,



Steve Crim
President and Founder
Common Sense America