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July 6, 2022

The Hon. Toni Atkins, Senate Speaker Pro Tempore
Chair, Senate Rules Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Confirmation of Tony Tavares as Caltrans Director (SUPPORT)

Dear Speaker Pro Tempore Atkins:

We are pleased to offer our full-throated endorsement for the appointment of Tony Tavares as Director of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Tony is well-known and widely respected within our industry. He has proven himself in countless interactions that he possesses the knowledge, experience, integrity and leadership qualities to excel in this challenging position.

While you will receive many testimonials about Tony's impressive achievements and abilities, we would like to focus on just one: innovation. Tony has been a champion of innovative approaches to addressing our transportation challenges while also keeping people at the forefront of all decision-making. The National Asphalt Pavement Association recognized his leadership with a prestigious "Pavement Pioneer Award" for his work spearheading the use of recycled materials in asphalt pavements (sustainability!) and promoting long-life asphalt pavement design strategies to construct pavements that will last for 40 years or more while needing minimal maintenance. Those initiatives alone enhance safety, will minimize inconvenience to motorists and provide outstanding value for the taxpayer. Like we said: innovative!

The California Asphalt Pavement Association, founded in 1953, is the oldest and largest construction trade association that focuses exclusively on the asphalt pavement industry in California. Our members include asphalt producers, refiners, paving contractors, testing labs, consultants, equipment manufacturers and many other related companies that make up the multibillion-dollar industry.

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 791-5044 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

RUSSELL W. SNYDER, CAE
Executive Director