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May 20, 2026

Representative John Garamendi
2428 Reyburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 8870 – the BUILD America 250 Act (SUPPORT)

Dear Representative Garamendi:

On behalf of the members of the California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA), we respectfully urge you to support the timely reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program before the current program expires on Sept. 30. This is embodied in H.R. 8870, the "BUILD America 250 Act."

As you know, California relies on safe and properly maintained roads to facilitate the efficient movement of people, goods and services around our state. This is a foundational contributor to our state's thriving economy and quality of life. The federal surface transportation program is a vital component to protect and enhance our transportation infrastructure, which benefits every person in every community.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is responsible for maintaining approximately 58,000 centerline miles of freeways and highways, and Caltrans State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) program is planning to repair approximately 1,500 lane-miles of that system each year. In addition, California's 58 counties and 482 cities own and maintain more than 146,885 centerline miles of local streets and roads, or about 83.5% of the entire publicly owned system in our state. Both state and local agencies report that current levels of funding are inadequate to address the needs of our aging roadway networks. Federal "formula" funding that is part of H.R.8870 is critical to addressing those needs. As you can see, your "yes" vote on the BUILD America 250 Act will have massive implications in your district and across our state.

The long-term nature of transportation projects depends on stable funding for effective planning and the efficient use of limited resources. Uncertainty in funding flows can create delays or reduce the number of projects that can be completed. That will accelerate the deterioration of our pavements, and the cost of repairing them, sometimes 10 fold. Delaying projects can also threaten the jobs of tens of thousands of workers in construction, engineering, materials, and supply-chain jobs across the state. These are good-paying jobs that serve as the backbone of our state's economic health.

It's worth noting that asphalt covers about 95% of paved surfaces in California, and is the world's most recycled product. Allowing these pavements to deteriorate has dire consequences for all Californians. Poorly maintained roads can create safety hazards, leading to increased traffic accidents and worsening air pollution from vehicles stuck idling in traffic. Cars and trucks traveling on rough roads use more fuel, and must be repaired more often, which has consequences for the environment as well as the pocketbooks of your constituents, in some cases more than $1,000 per year.

Paying for these critical infrastructure investments isn't cheap. But fortunately, a robust "pay as you go" system in the form of a gas tax devoted to roads has worked well for more than a century and should be protected even as new financing mechanisms are being explored. We urge you to act now, rather than waiting for this situation to become a full-blown crisis. For these and other reasons, we strongly urge you to vote yes on H.R. 8870, the BUILD America 250 Act.

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.

We are happy to be a resource for you if you have any questions about this important bill and its impact to your constituents. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 791-5044.

Sincerely,



RUSSELL W. SNYDER, CAE
Executive Director