



**Statement for the Record
Submitted to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
“The Cost of Doing Nothing: Why Investment in Our Nation’s Airports Matters”
March 26, 2019**

Dear Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, and esteemed members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee:

On behalf of the Highway Materials Group, we submit the following statement for the record. The Highway Materials Group is composed of eleven national organizations that provide the construction materials and equipment essential to building America’s roads, highways, bridges, and airport infrastructure. The group includes the American Coal Ash Association, American Concrete Pavement Association, American Traffic Safety Services Association, Associated Equipment Distributors, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, National Asphalt Pavement Association, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, the Portland Cement Association, and the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute.

Our coalition recognizes there is a need for further investment in airport infrastructure because, much like the rest of the country’s infrastructure, it is crumbling. In fact, the “D” grade given by the American Society of Civil Engineers to our nation’s Aviation system, actually ranks slightly lower than the “D+” grade for American infrastructure overall.

Airports are struggling to keep up with necessary maintenance projects given current revenue mechanisms that leave scarce resources for expansion and maintenance efforts. This comes at a time when airports are experiencing record levels of traffic, and aviation safety - both in the air and on the ground - remains the central priority of the overall passenger experience.

A study recently released by Airports Council International – North America suggests that airports infrastructure upgrades will require \$128 billion over the next four years. Investment in airport infrastructure strengthens the economy by supporting existing jobs and the creation of new ones. Failure to meet this investment need threatens our nation’s economic growth and puts jobs at risk. Our collective membership knows this as they employ tens of thousands of workers in good-paying jobs that are directly and indirectly connected to terminal, parking, ramp, apron, runway, and taxiway construction.

In closing, the Highway Materials Group supports committee efforts to update the funding options available to airports to ensure that U.S. airports have the resources they need to modernize their infrastructure; improve the passenger experience; and continue to put passenger safety first. Specifically, our coalition urges the committee to consider legislation that eliminates the cap on the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) and protect other funding mechanisms like the FAA's Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

We thank the committee for holding a hearing on this critical topic. The companies we represent are proud to be part of building and maintaining America's airports. Failing to invest in airport infrastructure will have a detrimental impact on the economy, jobs, and airport congestion and safety. The members of Highway Materials Group look forward to working with the committee in the coming months to improve and modernize U.S. infrastructure overall, including our nation's airports.

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