

January 15, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science & Transportation
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science & Transportation
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

On behalf of the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA), I'd like to express our support for President Elect Trump's Nominee, Rep. Sean Duffy, to lead as the next Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOT).

NAPA is the lone Washington DC trade association representing over 1,100 companies involved in asphalt pavement production and paving application across the nation. Our industry produces over 400M tons of asphalt pavement annually, supporting close to 350,000 jobs nationwide, with plants in virtually every Congressional district. Asphalt comprises roughly 94% of the roadway market, and over 80% of the airfield pavement market. Asphalt mix plants provide the critical pavement materials needed to build and maintain the nation's almost 4 million roadway miles.

We welcome Nominee Sean Duffy before the Committee to lead the DOT at a critical juncture for our industry. We are closing in on the final year of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA), which expires at the end of 2026, and Congress must pass a new highway reauthorization before the 119th adjourns. The policies and regulations included in this next highway reauthorization package will directly impact the work of the DOT, and internal agencies NAPA closely works with, like the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). We hope to work with Nominee Duffy and his team on priorities key to the asphalt industry and deployment of pavement materials, including:

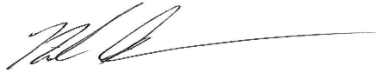
- advancing policies protecting roadway workers via work zone safety improvements,
- partnering with the DOT to help with our industry's decarbonization efforts and increased deployment of reclaimed asphalt product (RAP) – which at over 90M tons used by asphalt producers, is the most recycled product in the country,
- and supporting critical pavement research programs, like the AID-PT program, which facilitates vital work to continuously improve and implement the newest pavement technologies.

We also believe DOT Secretary Duffy will be a great advocate to improve the permitting process, saving taxpayer dollars billions and delivery of countless public works projects, as well as ensuring the DOT acts accordingly within its jurisdiction, such as reexamining its greenhouse gas (GHG); a key rule this committee openly questioned to the DOT. NAPA agrees with many on the Committee that we work with the FHWA and its State DOT partners to ensure no unjust bias is applied to critical roadway projects that may either add new lane miles, maintain existing roadways, and/or increase transit services.

There are countless DOT policies relevant to asphalt producers that we won't list today, but we look forward to working with the agency's new leadership to ensure our industry's critical pavement work will continue to advance. We encourage the Committee to pass Rep. Sean Duffy's nomination to the full chamber in the hopes that he will lead the DOT in earnest and continue the agency's vital work. As an original co-sponsor of the *FAST Act*, Nominee Duffy knows the role infrastructure investment plays into our national economy, and we are excited to see this leadership continue leading the Department of Transportation.

Thank you for your consideration and please use NAPA as an industry resource as your Committee works on critical regulatory policies and highway reauthorization legislative text this session.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NE', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nile Elam
Vice President of Government Affairs
National Asphalt Pavement Association