

February 8, 2022

To the Members of the United States Congress:

We call on Congress to complete work on the full Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations. With another stop gap Continuing Resolution likely necessary before the current continuing resolutions expires on February 18, almost one-third of the entire fiscal year will have elapsed. Another continuing resolution of any significant duration will undermine investments critical to our nation's economic growth and national security.

Defense: The recent – and overwhelmingly bipartisan – FY22 National Defense Authorization Act is intended to ensure American readiness at a time of provocative actions by China, Russia and other nations. Neither Pentagon planners, nor the firms at the heart of America's Defense Industrial Base, can execute the major modernization and readiness programs of the NDAA when funding remains stuck at last year's levels.

Procurement: Similar problems affect other federal agencies and the private sector firms that deliver to them the goods and services they need. Congress's bad habit of relying on CRs slows down the ability of agencies to seek contractors, and may force companies to avoid the risk of bidding on them. In particular, we are concerned with CR-caused delays to initiatives needed urgently to address supply chain bottlenecks.

Infrastructure: The CR makes administering federal transportation spending and deploying the new bipartisan infrastructure law exceptionally complicated. While the Highway Trust Fund's FY22 highway allocation is expected to be \$52.5 billion, states can spend no more than \$17.9 billion through February 18. The CR prevents the vast majority of new spending authorized in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including not just transportation, but telecommunication, drinking water, wastewater, resilience and other investments the law provides.

The temporary, stopgap funding provided by CRs has never been intended to be a permanent solution to funding the federal government. We urge you to finalize the FY22 Appropriations bills.

Sincerely,

American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Association of State Highway and
Transportation Officials
American Coatings Association
American Highway Users Alliance
American Petroleum Institute
American Property Casualty Insurance
Association
American Society of Civil Engineers
Associated General Contractors of America

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and
Neonatal Nurses
International Dairy Foods Association
International Fresh Produce Association
National Asphalt Pavement Association
National Association of Surety Bond
Producers
National Defense Industrial Association
National Lime Association
National Waste & Recycling Association
NIRI: The Association for Investor Relations

Portland Cement Association
Professional Services Council
Security Industry Association
Small Business Investor Alliance
Transportation Intermediaries Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Vinyl Institute