



December 3, 2015

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Environment & Public Works

Re: AGC Key Vote – Support H.R. 22, Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act

Dear Senator Boxer:

The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) urges you to vote in support of the conference report accompanying H.R. 22, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. AGC will consider this vote as a “key vote” for the education of our members.

Our members have been waiting for years for congressional leaders to end the cycle of short-term extensions and Highway Trust Fund bailouts and enact a true long-term highway and transit bill. The FAST Act puts an end to that cycle by providing five years of certainty and increased funding that will allow states to plan and finance needed improvements to our aging highway and transit systems, while allowing contractors to confidently invest in new equipment and hire and train new employees.

The FAST Act provides increased transportation funding through fiscal year 2020 for every state in the nation and includes policy reforms that will help reduce the amount of time and money it takes to plan, approve and construct new transportation projects. It also addresses national transportation infrastructure priorities by focusing resources on highway freight projects and large-scale projects of national and regional significance.

The FAST Act will provide AGC members and our state partners with the certainty and stability they desperately need to make the best possible investment of tax dollars. However, we remain concerned that the FAST Act does not provide a long-term and sustainable solution to the structural imbalance that has plagued the Highway Trust Fund since 2008. Before the ink is dry on the FAST Act, Congress, the administration and transportation stakeholders must get to work and find a way to pay for sustainable funding mechanisms for the Highway Trust Fund to avoid the temporary extensions and patchwork funding provisions that preceded the Act.

To that end, AGC urges a YES vote on the FAST Act and looks forward to working with you to find a long-term solution to the structural imbalance that will continue to plague the Highway Trust Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Sandherr', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stephen Sandherr