



ASSOCIATION OF
EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS

AGRICULTURE
CONSTRUCTION
FORESTRY
MINING
UTILITY

October 19, 2015

The Honorable Bill Shuster
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

On behalf of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers and our 900 members across the United States, I'm writing in support of swift consideration of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015. This legislation is a top priority for the equipment manufacturing industry because it would help restore overdue certainty to our surface transportation system.

For too long, the Highway Trust Fund has suffered under a cycle of repeated short-term fixes that extend the federal surface transportation program just a few months at a time. This is no way to do business. Passing legislation to provide meaningful stability to the Highway Trust Fund will promote economic growth in the equipment manufacturing industry and help states and contractors plan for long-term infrastructure projects.

The STRR Act marks a positive step toward the House making good on its pledge to pass a long-term highway bill this year. This is an especially encouraging step following on the Senate's passage of the DRIVE Act earlier this year.

AEM is looking forward to this week's markup of this legislation, which can form the basis for a bipartisan resolution of this issue before the end of the year. Neither the DRIVE Act nor the STRR Act is perfect – equipment manufacturers would strongly prefer that lawmakers work to identify a full six years of funding for their legislation, along with a sustainable funding mechanism that defuses the funding crises that have plagued the trust fund for years.

For those reasons, AEM and its member companies, along with tens of thousands of grassroots manufacturing employees, will actively encourage members of Congress to pass a long-term highway bill without delay and work with the Senate to finish work on this important priority this year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dennis Slater
President
Association of Equipment Manufacturers

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