



May 19, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

On behalf of the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME), I write in support of the *Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America's 250th Act* (BUILD America 250 Act). IME applauds the Committee's bipartisan effort to advance a robust, multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill that will strengthen and modernize America's transportation infrastructure, improve the permitting process, and support economic growth.

Founded in 1913, IME is a trade association whose mission is to promote the safe and secure manufacture, transport, distribution and use of commercial explosives. IME's members include manufacturers, distributors and users of commercial explosives and other companies that provide related products and services. The commercial explosives industry is vital to the U.S. economy, contributing more than \$19 billion annually to the U.S. economy and creating 15,000 direct industry jobs and more than 60,000 total jobs.

Commercial explosives are essential to the construction and maintenance of America's infrastructure. Highways, tunnels, buildings, electric transmission lines, pipelines, and other major infrastructure projects rely on commercial explosives to prepare land for construction and enable large-scale development. In addition, quarries in all 50 states depend on commercial explosives to efficiently extract the aggregates used to build and maintain the more than four million miles of roads that connect communities and support the movement of goods throughout the country.

Supporting this infrastructure network also requires a safe, modern, and reliable transportation system. Commercial explosives must be transported safely and securely to construction sites, mines, quarries, and energy projects nationwide. Investments such as those included in the BUILD America 250 Act are therefore critical to ensuring these products can be delivered safely, securely, and on time to customers across the country,

helping infrastructure projects remain on schedule and supporting broader supply chain reliability.

IME is also encouraged by the BUILD America 250 Act's provisions aimed at streamlining the permitting process for infrastructure projects. Meaningful permitting reform is essential to ensuring that critical infrastructure projects can move forward in a timely, predictable, and cost-effective manner. Reducing unnecessary delays and improving coordination within the permitting process will help accelerate the development of projects that are vital to America's economic growth, energy security, and transportation infrastructure.

Thank you again for introducing the BUILD America 250 Act. IME looks forward to working with the committee to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Clark Mica". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J. Clark Mica
President

Cc: Members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure