



Associated Equipment Distributors
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Suite 305
Schaumburg, IL 60173

January 13, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Transportation Secretary-Designate
C/O Biden-Harris Transition
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mayor Buttigieg:

On behalf of Associated Equipment Distributors (AED), I am writing to convey the construction equipment industry's congratulations on your nomination to serve as Secretary of Transportation and express our strong desire to work with the you to put the United States on track for long-term economic growth that creates well-paying jobs and prosperity for all Americans.

AED is the trade association representing companies that sell, rent, service and manufacture construction, mining, farm, energy, forestry and industrial equipment. Its nearly 500 distributor members, which are predominantly small-medium-sized, family-owned businesses, have over 3,500 locations, employ 150,000 workers and account for more than \$60 billion of annual sales revenue in the United States and its territories.

There is no better way to create jobs and economic opportunity across the country than investing in rebuilding the United States' crumbling infrastructure. Construction equipment distributors are plagued by the uncertainty surrounding federal highway program. Contractors and other consumers of construction equipment will not invest in new machinery without long-term certainty.

The country's surface transportation needs are well-documented. However, with the current highway bill (the FAST Act) set to expire in Sept. 2021 and the Highway Trust Fund approaching insolvency, we encourage the Biden-Harris administration to work with Congress to expeditiously identify new revenue sources (e.g., increase the federal fuel tax and institute a nationwide vehicle-miles-traveled tax pilot program) to restore the federal highway program's long-term fiscal stability and increase investment levels.

Substantial investments to modernize the nation's roads, bridges and highways are vital to create rewarding and well-paying jobs, grow the economy, reduce the nation's environmental footprint and improve the United States' international competitiveness. AED and its members are eager to work with you to create a sustainable and impactful recovery that ensures economic security, stability and prosperity for all Americans.

We look forward to meeting with you after your confirmation, whether virtual or in-person, to introduce you to the equipment industry and our priorities. Additionally, you have an open invitation to visit our member facilities as you travel the country.

Thank you for your willingness to lead our nation during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Brian P. McGuire
President & CEO