July 1, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

I’m writing to convey the bleak situation facing the construction equipment industry, which underscores the need for you to bring bipartisan infrastructure legislation to the Senate floor for immediate consideration to facilitate negotiations with the House and send a final bill to the president for his signature as soon as possible.

Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) is the trade association representing companies that sell, rent, service and manufacture construction, mining, farm, energy, forestry, industrial equipment and related supplies. 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.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, it was long overdue for our leaders in Washington to provide substantial, long-term infrastructure investments to rebuild our nation. Now, it’s absolutely necessary as the United States stares directly into a significant economic downturn, state Departments of Transportation are unable to fund future construction projects and equipment dealers and their customers are facing significant uncertainty.

AED members across the country have seen demand for construction equipment purchases and rentals decreasing rapidly as the backlog of pre-COVID-19 construction projects diminishes. The dismal assessment will necessitate tough decisions from these small-medium-sized family-owned companies regarding employment and business investment. Devoid of long-term funding for surface transportation and other infrastructure projects, business at equipment dealerships will grind to a halt compelling drastic employment reductions.

Now is not the time for partisanship. The future of our country’s economic well-being and competitiveness are at stake. AED urges the Senate to follow the House’s recent actions and expeditiously approve legislation that completes the surface transportation reauthorization process and provides other targeted infrastructure investments. There are no more excuses—everyone in Washington knows what needs to be done and now is the time to rebuild America’s crumbling infrastructure, put people back to work and generate economic growth for years to come.

We look forward to that continuing and working with you as we chart a course to economic growth and job creation in United States.

Sincerely,

Brian McGuire  
President & CEO

cc:   Members of the United States Senate