

COSIGN: Bipartisan Letter of Support for Geosynthetic Materials

/Natural Resources /Technology /Transportation /Administrative / W2 / COSIGN: Bipartisan Letter of Support for Geosynthetic Materials

- November 15, 2017
 - Natural Resources/ Technology/ Transportation/ W2
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Sending Office: Honorable Bruce Westerman
Sent By:

Request for Signature(s)

Dear Colleague,

I am leading a letter to Secretary Chao touting the benefits of geosynthetic materials and other innovative technologies and asking her to consider incorporating their usage into the infrastructure package. These materials are utilized in every state to cut down on infrastructure costs and extend the lifespan of projects spanning the construction industry.

As the letter posted below states, “They are utilized in a variety of infrastructure applications, including: doubling the lifespan of airfields; reducing construction time and extending the life for highways; preventing waterway erosion and water loss in canals and dikes; coastal protection and restoration projects; expanding and deepening our nation’s ports; protecting groundwater and allowing for safe solid waste storage.”

Current cosigners (8): Fleischmann, G. Graves, Schrader, LoBiondo, R. Davis, Rouzer, Crawford, and S. King

We are closing at the end of the week.

Please reach out to Jefferson Deming at jefferson.deming@mail.house.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bruce Westerman

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the Administration considers priorities for the upcoming infrastructure package, we write to respectfully encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to continue to look into the uses of geosynthetic materials. Our nation should not miss opportunities to spur economic growth, welcome innovation, and improve our global competitiveness. Greater utilization of geosynthetic materials has potential to ensure that infrastructure built under your watch will be constructed faster and last longer.

Geosynthetic materials are a critical, innovative element of the transportation construction industry, all the while delivering cost savings, sustainability, and longevity for a variety of civil infrastructure applications. Geosynthetics can be deployed faster than traditional materials, resulting in faster project delivery and decreased congestion. They are utilized in a variety of infrastructure applications, including: doubling the lifespan of airfields; reducing construction time and extending the life for highways; preventing waterway erosion and water loss in canals and dikes; coastal protection and restoration projects; expanding and deepening our nation's ports; protecting groundwater and allowing for safe solid waste storage.

The U.S. Congress has addressed the benefits of geosynthetics in three different pieces of legislation. The 114th Congress passed H.R. 22, Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and S. 612, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. Both acts included geosynthetic language in their passage to highlight the importance of incorporating innovative technologies into our rapidly evolving transportation marketplace. The 113th Congress also passed H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform & Development Act (WRRDA), which also included geosynthetic language.

We therefore encourage you to consider the importance of geosynthetic materials and other innovative technologies in the upcoming infrastructure package. Our nation must ensure that our infrastructure continues to connect businesses and people around the world, all the while upholding the ideals of safety, innovation, and economic growth.

Sincerely,

Members of Congress