

October 13, 2011

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the more than 5,000 members of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), **I urge you to support for H.R. 2273, the “Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act.”** This bipartisan legislation would both set federal standards for responsible storage of fly ash while also prohibiting the Environmental Protection Agency from designating fly ash as a “hazardous” substance. Fly ash is a byproduct of coal combustion for electricity generation and widely used as a supplementary material in the production of concrete. Fly ash concrete is a mixture of choice for many state and local transportation departments and transportation engineers because of its performance enhancing and cost-saving benefits. H.R. 2273 would benefit the nation’s transportation infrastructure by providing needed certainty to businesses in the transportation sector which recycle fly ash for use in concrete from roads, bridges and transit systems.

According to a study released by ARTBA last month, if fly ash was removed from use in transportation construction through designating it as “hazardous” **the average annual cost of building roads, runways and bridges in the United States would increase by nearly \$5.23 billion.** This includes a \$2.5 billion increase in the annual price of materials and an additional \$930 million each year in pavement repair work and \$1.8 billion in bridge work due to the shorter pavement life of portland cement concrete without fly ash. Over 20 years, the additional cost would be \$104.6 billion.

To put the \$5.23 billion cost of designating fly ash as “hazardous” in perspective, it is almost \$2 billion per year more than the federal government currently invests in the Airport Improvement Program and about 13 percent of the federal government’s annual total annual aid to the states for highway and bridge work. Without the availability of fly ash, **American taxpayers would ultimately bear the burden, either paying more for the same level of transportation improvements, or dealing with the consequences of a scaled back improvement program.**

Sensible, bipartisan solutions to environmental problems have been few and far between in recent years. H.R. 2273 represents a chance to both responsibly address the issue of coal ash storage and provide much needed regulatory certainty to the transportation sector which heavily utilizes coal ash recycling. As such, **ARTBA urges the swift passage of H.R. 2273 when it comes to a vote before the full House of Representatives and look forward to working with you to accomplish this important goal.**

Sincerely,



T. Peter Ruane
President & C.E.O