



ASSOCIATION OF
EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS

START US UP USA! INFRASTRUCTURE CAMPAIGN PLEDGE

The *Start Us Up USA!* campaign is a joint effort between Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) and the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) to urge Congress and the President to make surface transportation and water infrastructure investment a priority. Lawmakers must seize this historic opportunity to lay a solid foundation for America's economic growth, a cleaner environment, and a better quality of life for all Americans. AED and AEM are therefore asking candidates to sign this campaign pledge.

The heavy construction equipment industry is a major contributor to the U.S. economy and substantially impacts the economy of every state and congressional district. In 2008, equipment manufacturers, distributors, and independent maintenance providers had a \$364.9 billion impact on the U.S. economy, supported more than 2 million American jobs, and paid \$111.3 billion in wages, salaries, and benefits. Research shows that investment in our nation's highways, bridges, water, and transit infrastructure creates about 18,000 jobs for every \$1 billion spent, providing an indispensable resource for the U.S. economy and making fundamental contributions to the country's long-term productivity.

Because spending on highways and other government infrastructure programs have an enormous impact on the equipment industry, our members are keenly aware of the crisis our nation faces. Traffic congestion costs the U.S. economy \$87 billion in wasted time and fuel, and half of all traffic deaths are attributable in part to poor road conditions. Despite these stark facts, Congress has allowed SAFETEA-LU (the most recent federal highway authorization law) to expire and enacted a series of short-term extensions with inadequate funding. Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates our wastewater needs to be \$298.1 billion and our drinking water needs to be \$334.8 billion.

If you have any questions about the pledge or the *Start Us Up USA!* campaign please contact AED's Director of Government Affairs, Daniel Fisher (dfisher@aednet.org or 703-739-9513) or AEM's Manager of Government Affairs, Nick Tindall (ntindall@AEM.org or 202-898-9067). Upon receiving the pledge, we will post your name on the campaign's website, www.startusupusa.com.

I, the undersigned candidate for the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives, agree that investing in our nation's deteriorating infrastructure is a top priority.

If elected, I commit to supporting robust federal investment in surface transportation and water infrastructure programs to **create jobs, spur economic growth, ensure the country's global competitiveness, protect public safety and the environment, and create a better quality of life for my fellow citizens**. Infrastructure investment should be done in a **transparent and fiscally responsible manner** and the current user-fee system must be improved to ensure an adequate and sustainable revenue stream for transportation programs.

Candidate Signature

District/State

Candidate Name

Contact Email Address

Date

Contact Phone Number

*** Please return signed pledge to Daniel Fisher via email (dfisher@aednet.org) or fax (703-739-9488) ***