



ASSOCIATION OF
EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS

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Start Us Up USA! Tells Governors: Support Infrastructure Now!

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As part of a continuing effort to create jobs and improve our economy, the nation's two leading equipment industry trade groups sent letters to gubernatorial candidates urging them, if elected, to work with their legislatures and congressional delegations to make surface transportation and water infrastructure investment a top priority.

The letter is the latest effort by [Start Us Up USA!](#), the national grassroots campaign led by [Associated Equipment Distributors \(AED\)](#) and the [Association of Equipment Manufacturers \(AEM\)](#) to draw attention to the economic crisis facing construction equipment distributors and manufacturers. The campaign encourages dialogue about the need for sustained investment in our nation's infrastructure and the consequences of inaction.

Gubernatorial candidates are the latest target of the *Start Us Up USA!* campaign this election season. Last month, the campaign sent an [infrastructure campaign pledge](#) to federal office seekers allowing them to commit to robust federal investment in surface transportation and water infrastructure programs next Congress. More than 50 candidates have thus far signed the pledge, including a bipartisan group of senior members of Congress and top challengers.

Highway and water infrastructure investment creates jobs, spurs economic growth, ensures global competitiveness, protects public safety and the environment, and creates a better quality of life for every American. Governors must deal with the realities of insufficient infrastructure investment on a daily basis as roads, highways, bridges, pipes, and sewer systems age and become inadequate and state unemployment rates continue to rise.

"With direct responsibility for ensuring the viability and functioning of a state's transportation network and water systems, gubernatorial support and commitment in the fight for infrastructure investment is critical," said AED President and CEO Toby Mack. "Their support will not only bring their state a bounty of long-term rewards, but will yield immediate benefits by jump-starting a struggling economy and creating jobs."

"Those seeking higher office must lead the way in securing needed investments for our roads, bridges, and water networks. Now is the time for state leaders to demonstrate the political will to ensure our long-term economic competitiveness while at the same time giving a needed boost to stagnant job growth, improving roads for drivers, and ensuring safe drinking water for all," said AEM President Dennis Slater.

To view the letter sent to gubernatorial candidates visit: <http://www.startusupusa.com/pdf-2010/AED-AEMLettertoGovernors-20100922.pdf>

For a list of signatories and information on the Infrastructure Campaign Pledge visit: http://www.startusupusa.com/campaign_pledge.cfm

For more information on the *Start Us Up USA!* visit: www.startusupusa.com

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