PCA Since 1916
America's Cement Manufacturers™

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February 9, 2021

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Chairman
Energy & Commerce
Subcommittee on the Environment
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David McKinley, P.E.
Ranking Member
Energy & Commerce
Subcommittee on the Environment
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Tonko and Ranking Member McKinley:

On behalf of the Portland Cement Association (PCA) and the larger cement manufacturing industry, we would like to thank you for holding the hearing, *Back in Action: Restoring Federal Climate Leadership*. This hearing is a critical step for our nation to better advance toward a clean economy.

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) is the premier policy, research, education, and market intelligence organization serving America's cement manufacturers. PCA members represent 93 percent of the United States' cement manufacturing production capacity and have distribution facilities in every state in the continental United States. Cement and concrete product manufacturing, directly and indirectly, employs approximately 600,000 people across the country, and our collective industries contribute over $100 billion to our economy. PCA promotes safety, sustainability, and innovation in all aspects of construction, fosters continuous improvement in cement manufacturing and distribution, and promotes economic growth and sound infrastructure investment.

PCA and its members support market-based policies and initiatives that will enable the industry's continued reduction of its carbon footprint responsibly and sustainably. Our members are committed to doing their part to mitigate climate change. They are pursuing an industry roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and achieving carbon neutrality throughout the cement and concrete value chain by 2050. However, we cannot achieve this goal alone. We will be looking to work with Congress and the Biden Administration as well as other stakeholders as our industry continues its path to carbon neutrality.

The cement industry has worked to reduce its GHG emissions through efficiency improvements in the manufacturing process over the past 50 years. We reduced energy use by over 40% from 7.8 gigajoules per equivalent tons in 1972 to 4.35 gigajoules per equivalent ton in 2020. For 2019, thirteen cement plants were certified by the EnergyStar program for their efficiency efforts. However, there is not commercially available, affordable, and scalable technology available to the cement industry for the capture, use, and storage of manufacturing process emissions. For our industry to meet our 2050 deadline for carbon neutrality and similar deadlines cited by scientists for global action, technological development will have to be accelerated. At the current pace of research and development, any technology that could be commercially available for CCUS is at least 15 years away. To speed such development, the

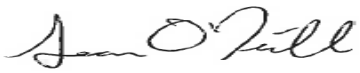
federal government must invest in the technologies to drive down emissions within the manufacturing sector.

A long-term strategy for maintaining the competitiveness of domestic industrial manufacturing will require increasing federal investments into research like that at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Concrete Sustainability Hub (MIT CSHub).[1] The CSHub is a dedicated interdisciplinary team of researchers from several departments across MIT, who, since 2009, have been working on concrete, buildings, and infrastructure science, engineering, and economics. We need to utilize the combined knowledge and experience of academia such as at the MIT CSHub, along with industry, government, and non-governmental organizations to develop the technologies that radically reduce carbon emissions while improving our infrastructure's resiliency.

The U.S. cement industry faces unique challenges in reducing carbon emissions due to the energy-intensive nature of our operations and the significant emissions resulting from the chemical processes involved in converting limestone and other materials into cement. While the industry has made significant strides in reducing energy-related emissions, process-related emissions account for 60 percent of the industry's carbon footprint, making carbon capture, use, and sequestration (CCUS) critical components of any long-term climate strategy. To date, most federal CCUS investment has focused on the energy sector, and while DOE has started to give more attention to overall industrial sector research needs, additional funding and coordination are needed. It is critical that the state of CCUS technology is advanced for cement manufacturing, from the development and assessment of tailored carbon capture technologies to bench and facility-scale testing and deployment. The federal government's leadership is necessary to ensure the United States leads in the development of the technology to combat climate change.

Again, thank you for your continued leadership as our country works toward a clean economy. PCA members look forward to working with you to ensure that you have the support necessary for environmental and climate legislation. If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please feel free to contact PCA's Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, Sean O'Neill, at 703-321-6792 or soneill@cement.org.

Sincerely,



Sean O'Neill
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Portland Cement Association

[1] *See* https://cshub.mit.edu/.