



American Cement Association
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August 19, 2026

The Honorable Alan Armstrong
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Armstrong:

On behalf of the American Cement Association (ACA), I am writing to express our support for the American Energy and Mineral Infrastructure Act (AEMIA). We appreciate the opportunity to share our views on this legislation that would facilitate infrastructure construction, energy production and transmission, domestic manufacturing, and economic growth.

Cement and concrete manufacturing support more than 577,000 American jobs and contribute more than \$159 billion to the U.S. economy annually. Cement, the primary ingredient in concrete, is essential to building and maintaining the nation's infrastructure – from highways and bridges to airports, mass transit systems, water facilities, and residential and commercial buildings. Sustainability and environmental stewardship are top priorities for America's cement manufacturers. Our products contribute to the resilience of critical infrastructure, enhance energy efficiency in buildings, and improve fuel efficiency on roads.

The ACA's members are committed to environmental stewardship, sustainable operations, and their communities. For example, ACA's members have undertaken voluntary efforts to increase plant efficiency and use alternative fuels such as scrap tires, biomass, waste-derived fuels, and other materials that would otherwise go to landfills or incinerators. ACA's members support appropriate and necessary regulatory measures to reduce harmful air pollution and comply with stringent air emissions requirements and other environmental obligations incorporated into their permits.

Modernizing the federal permitting processes under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA) is important to achieving the nation's infrastructure, energy, and domestic manufacturing goals. ACA members provide foundational building materials needed for our infrastructure and energy projects. Cement manufacturers may also depend on reliable energy infrastructure and may pursue energy-efficiency improvements and carbon-management technologies that require federal permits and may require NEPA review. The United States benefits from a diverse range of energy resources—including solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal energy, and natural gas—as well as geological formations with the potential to support carbon sequestration. More efficient and predictable permitting processes will help the nation capitalize on these advantages, deploy innovative technologies, and strengthen domestic manufacturing.

Current federal permitting processes can create uncertainty, duplication, and delay for infrastructure, energy, and manufacturing projects. CWA Section 401 gives states and authorized Tribes an important role in reviewing federally licensed or permitted activities that may result in discharges to jurisdictional waters. At the same time, unclear review standards, open-ended information requests, and uncertainty regarding the permissible scope of certifications and conditions can delay federally authorized projects. ACA supports AEMIA's efforts to facilitate improvements to America's infrastructure essential to commerce and strengthen domestic manufacturing. By improving interagency coordination for covered projects, establishing clearer timelines and standards, clarifying the scope of review under NEPA and the Clean Water Act, providing greater certainty for Section 401 certifications and Section 404 permits, extending the maximum term for state-issued NPDES permits from five to ten years, and reducing

litigation-related uncertainty, AEMIA would help infrastructure and energy projects move forward more efficiently. These reforms would support the energy infrastructure and innovative technologies on which cement manufacturers depend, while helping ensure the timely and cost-effective construction of projects that require cement and concrete. For these reasons, AEMIA is a win-win for the cement industry, and the ACA is proud to support it.

We look forward to working with you to move this legislation through the legislative process. If you have any further questions, please contact me at soneill@cement.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean O'Neill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sean" and last name "O'Neill" clearly distinguishable.

Sean O'Neill
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
American Cement Association