

Written Testimony of Senate File 2156

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The Aggregate and Ready Mix Association (ARM) of Minnesota is actively working towards lowering carbon emissions for construction materials and is supportive, furthermore, of the use of EPDs to serve that purpose. To that end, ARM has been working with MnDOT since the fall of 2018 to develop a means for the inclusion of EPDs within the public letting process. We are confident that our continuing work with MnDOT, and with our national affiliates, will yield the best results for the people of Minnesota.

In support of the efforts behind HF 2170, we would like to offer a few suggestions that would lead to a more robust bill and, ultimately, lower carbon emissions on construction projects.

1. Allow MnDOT to complete its study, "Development of Process to Lower GWP of Construction Materials"
 - a. MnDOT Project Number: 2021-055
 - b. Originally funded by MnDOT
 - c. Additional advancement of the study is funded through FHWA's "Climate Challenge"
 - d. Researchers have taken significant steps to include industry in the study
2. Allow completion of the research being conducted in Minnesota by the National Road Research Alliance
 - a. 14 test sections of alternative concrete paving materials were placed just last summer
 - b. Tests are ongoing and under real traffic at the MnROAD facility
3. Engineering and performance must not be sacrificed to accelerate use of EPDs
 - a. Simply lowering carbon emissions at the time of construction could lead to disastrous results in the long term
 - b. In the presence of ever-increasing variability in weather events, we must be committed to resiliency of facilities
 - c. The life cycle of the materials and the facility must be considered along with carbon emissions at the time of construction
4. Data collection is a monumental task that must be provided adequate time for generation and analysis
 - a. Use of EPDs in the public letting process will require development of thousands of EPDs that will be changing with nearly every project
 - b. Before we can fully understand the impacts to the public letting process and how to establish an effective process, we must first understand current use of materials
 - c. Adding language to the proposed bill establishing a tax credit for development of EPDs may help us encourage producers to develop EPDs sooner rather than later
5. Provide for the establishment of joint agency/industry web-based resources
 - a. Expand on the example set by the State of Oregon whereby a database was established by the State's Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association
 - b. Streamline the process of EPD development through a statewide system

- i. Make forms and data readily available to producers to assist in completion of EPDs
 - c. Provide funding for above
 - 6. Ensure access to aggregate resources throughout the State
 - a. Aggregate resources throughout the State need to be protected in order to ensure that materials are available as close to every project site as possible, in order to avoid unnecessary emissions due to transportation
 - b. Fully fund DNR's aggregate mapping efforts
 - c. Require that local governments include DNR's aggregate maps in their planning and zoning actions
 - d. Implement the findings of the 2018 report from the legislature's Aggregate Resources Task Force
 - 7. Add a representative of the Aggregate and Ready Mix Association (ARM) of Minnesota to the Environmental Standards Procurement Task Force
 - a. ARM represents the vast majority of construction materials producers and suppliers in the State
 - b. ARM has been working with MnDOT since 2018 to lower CO2 emissions and to bring EPDs into the bidding process
 - c. ARM's national affiliates provide access to some of the finest technical resources in the U.S.
 - i. The Concrete Sustainability Hub at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
 - ii. The National Concrete Pavement Technology Center at Iowa State University
 - iii. The National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
 - 8. Include wood and/or timber as an eligible material
 - a. Omitting wood and/or timber from the requirements placed on other building materials would provide a market advantage to that material

ARM of Minnesota is supportive, and actively working towards, efforts to lower carbon emissions for construction materials. We strongly suggest that the Committee consider the above suggestions and allow time for a deliberate process that yields the best results for the people of the State of Minnesota. Such a process is already being studied by ARM and MnDOT.