



Pennsylvania Aggregates and Concrete Association

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## PACA Legislative Priorities for 2026

### Workforce Development/Fiscal Code

PACA supports expanding the Apprenticeship Training Program within the Department of Labor and Industry to include industry certifications. This change would strengthen workforce development in the Commonwealth while allowing unused prior-year funds, including balances dating back to 2019, to be directed toward current workforce needs. Expanding the program in this way would help employers address ongoing workforce shortages and ensure that existing appropriations are used effectively to support job training and career advancement in Pennsylvania.

### Regulatory/Fiscal Code

#### *Permitting Transparency*

Over the past two years, the General Assembly has taken significant bipartisan steps to improve permitting processes within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). PACA supports those efforts and appreciates the work of the General Assembly and Governor Shapiro to advance permitting reform. PACA supports requiring permitting agencies to provide specific reasons when a permit application is denied. Clear explanations improve transparency, reduce unnecessary delays, and promote more effective communication between agencies and applicants. Greater clarity in the permitting process benefits both regulators and the regulated community by creating a more efficient and accountable system.

#### *NPDES Permit Renewals*

PACA supports a statutory or regulatory remedy for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewals when DEP review exceeds the five-year permit term. Delays in permit renewals create uncertainty for permit holders and can lead to inconsistent compliance expectations. A deemed-approved framework, or similar mechanism, would provide greater regulatory certainty while preserving environmental standards and reducing the risk of additional requirements being imposed outside the normal renewal process.

#### *Baghouse Fines*

PACA supports reclassifying baghouse fines from asphalt plants as a coproduct rather than residual waste. Baghouse fines are dust particles captured from the exhaust gases of asphalt mixing plants. Pennsylvania is unique in treating these materials as residual waste through state agency policy. Revising this designation would produce environmental, operational, and economic benefits, while aligning Pennsylvania more closely with practices followed in other states.



## Transportation Funding/Fiscal Code

PACA urges the General Assembly to complete the phase-out of Pennsylvania State Police reliance on the Motor License Fund. This has been a bipartisan and broadly supported objective over several fiscal years. Ending this reliance would help ensure that Motor License Fund dollars are used for their core transportation purposes and would provide greater long-term stability for road and bridge funding in the Commonwealth.

If the General Assembly considers dedicated sales and use tax revenues for mass transit funding, PACA believes there should also be corresponding discussion of dedicated revenues for roads and bridges. The sales and use tax already collected on motor vehicle purchases represents a logical user-based revenue source for transportation infrastructure investment. In addition, existing local sales taxes levied in first-class and second-class cities could continue to support the Commonwealth's largest mass transit systems. A long-term reallocation of motor vehicle sales and use tax revenue for highways and bridges would create an opportunity to invest in a core function of government while providing future budget flexibility.

## Legislation — Support

### *Expansion of ACRE Protections to Quarries*

In 2005, the General Assembly enacted the Agriculture, Communities, and Rural Environment (ACRE) law to ensure that local governments did not restrict lawful farming operations through ordinances that conflicted with state law. ACRE has served as an important and effective tool in balancing the rights of local governments with the need to protect lawful agricultural activity.

PACA supports legislation to extend similar protections to quarries under the Noncoal Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act (NSMCRA). Quarries provide the foundational materials needed for construction and infrastructure across Pennsylvania. Extending ACRE-type protections to quarry operations would help address local ordinances that conflict with state law, support PennDOT's access to local material supplies, reduce the need to transport heavy materials over longer distances, and promote both affordability and environmental stewardship.

### *Concrete Inspection Standards — HB 1603*

PACA supports HB 1603, sponsored by Rep. Kyle Mullins, which would require professional sampling and initial curing of concrete samples on commercial construction projects. Reliable concrete testing is essential to construction quality, public safety, and project accountability. This legislation would improve the integrity of the testing process, increase confidence in test results, and provide greater consistency in quality assurance across the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing PACA's legislative priorities for 2026. PACA stands ready to assist in any way that would be helpful as the General Assembly considers these issues. For additional information, please contact Hank Butler at (717) 330-4574 or [hank@butlerconsultingfirm.com](mailto:hank@butlerconsultingfirm.com).