

# U.S. CEMENT IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

# AMERICAN FOUNDATIONS

A Project of Common Sense America

**AMERICAN CEMENT IS FOUNDATIONAL TO SOLVING THE NATION'S HOUSING CRISIS.** Domestic cement production supports faster, more affordable home construction while creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs. Expanding American cement capacity is essential to building the homes our communities need.

## U.S. CEMENT SUPPORTS HOME CONSTRUCTION

### FOUNDATION OF HOUSING SUPPLY

Every new single-family home requires 30 to 40 cubic yards of concrete for its foundation, structure, and site work. With the U.S. facing a housing shortage of 3 to 5 million homes, meeting construction demand requires a reliable, domestic cement supply to produce the necessary concrete for our infrastructure. Domestic cement manufacturing operates in 99 plants across 34 states and Puerto Rico, creating a distributed network that enables builders to source materials regionally and reduce transportation costs and delays.

### SPEED AND RELIABILITY FOR BUILDERS

Domestic cement producers provide reliable regional supply chains that reduce construction delays through dependable delivery and consistent quality. This approach minimizes supply chain disruptions that can idle construction sites, increase costs for developers, and delay building. American-made cement is compatible with modern construction methods that make it possible to quickly build new homes and close the housing supply gap. Predictable material availability allows builders to maintain construction schedules and deliver housing units to market more efficiently.

### LONG-TERM AFFORDABILITY AND DURABILITY

Concrete homes built with quality cement offer substantial long-term cost advantages for homeowners and communities. These structures provide 20 to 25 percent energy savings compared to traditional wood-frame construction, significantly reducing utility costs over the life of the home, and have lower maintenance and insurance costs over time. American cement manufacturers produce materials that meet rigorous U.S. standards for performance, safety, and traceability, ensuring structural integrity and building code compliance.

# OBSTACLES TO BUILDING WITH AMERICAN CEMENT

## PLANT CLOSURES AND CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS

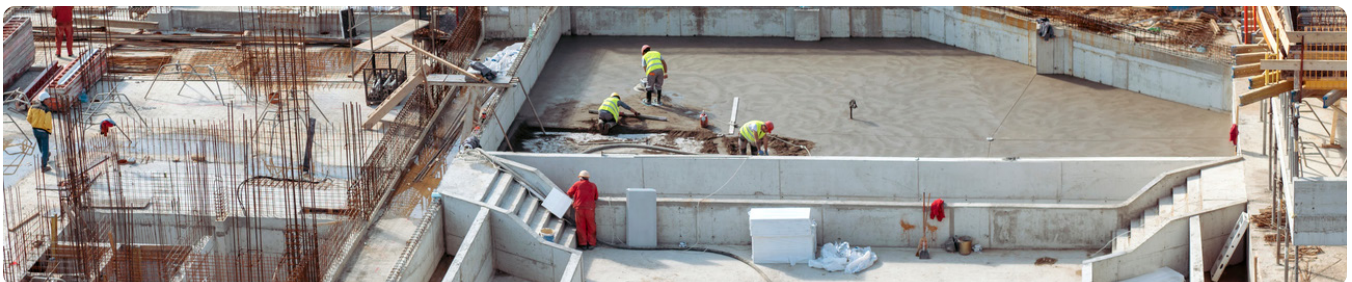
The U.S. has experienced cement plant closures in California, Maine, and New York in recent years, reducing domestic production capacity at a time when housing demand is increasing. Domestic cement production capacity has remained relatively stagnant over the past decade, while demand continues to grow, creating supply constraints that drive up costs and extend construction timelines. Industry analysts project the U.S. could face a 50-million-ton cementitious materials supply gap by 2050—half of current consumption—as permitting and building new cement plants can take a decade or more.

## REGULATORY BURDENS AND PERMITTING DELAYS

Overly burdensome environmental regulations could result in cement kilns being shut down, idled, or operated at reduced capacity, further constraining U.S. clinker production at a time when housing construction needs are urgent. Complex permitting processes for new plants or plant modernization create lengthy approval timelines that prevent the industry from expanding capacity to meet demand. These regulatory obstacles increase operating costs for domestic producers, placing them at a competitive disadvantage relative to foreign manufacturers operating under different regulatory frameworks. The combined effect of these burdens is reduced investment in domestic cement manufacturing infrastructure and innovation.

## IMPORT COMPETITION AND QUALITY CONCERNS

Imports now supply 22 percent of U.S. cement consumption, up from just 7 percent in 2012, with significant volumes coming from Turkey (\$461 million), Vietnam (\$211 million), and Greece (\$104 million). High rates of low-quality foreign cement consumption threaten American economic security, undermine domestic manufacturing jobs, and introduce quality and performance risks into critical infrastructure and housing projects. This import dependence exposes the domestic construction industry to foreign supply disruptions, volatile international shipping costs, and inconsistent material quality that can compromise building performance.



# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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## STRENGTHEN BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Build America, Buy America provisions exclude cement, creating a loophole that allows foreign cement in federally funded projects. Closing this gap would ensure that federal housing and infrastructure investments support American workers and communities.

- Require U.S.-sourced cement for all government-funded infrastructure and housing projects to ensure taxpayer dollars support American manufacturing, create domestic jobs, and strengthen supply chain resilience.

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## RECOGNIZE CEMENT AS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Treating cement as critical infrastructure acknowledges its foundational role in housing affordability, economic development, and disaster recovery while ensuring policymakers prioritize domestic production capacity.

- Designate cement as a critical infrastructure input in state and federal resilience plans, ensuring adequate domestic supply during emergencies, natural disasters, and periods of global supply chain disruption.
- Develop strategic stockpile and surge capacity programs that enable rapid response to regional cement shortages that can halt housing construction and infrastructure repair.
- Coordinate federal housing, transportation, and emergency management agencies to monitor cement supply conditions and proactively address emerging shortages that threaten construction timelines.

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## FAST-TRACK PERMITS AND INCENTIVIZE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

The U.S. needs policies that would accelerate the timeline for bringing new domestic capacity online and ensure American cement production can meet the nation's housing and infrastructure needs.

- Establish expedited permitting processes and provide tax credits for U.S. cement plants that modernize kilns, reduce emissions, and commit to serving local supply chains, enabling the industry to expand capacity more quickly.
- Streamline environmental review timelines for plant upgrades and capacity expansions that incorporate best-available emissions control technologies and energy efficiency improvements.

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## ENHANCE IMPORT TRANSPARENCY AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Enhancing transparency and quality controls will protect American consumers, builders, and infrastructure investments while creating a level playing field for domestic manufacturers.

- Require state transportation departments to publish an annual "Import Reliance Report" on construction material documenting the volume, origin, and quality metrics of imported cement and construction materials used in public projects.
- Require construction material importers to produce cement mill and ASTM quality assurance testing certificates for all imported materials to ensure they meet U.S. performance and safety standards.
- Strengthen customs and border enforcement to prevent substandard imported cement from entering U.S. markets and compromising building quality and public safety.