



July 13, 2021

Dear Every Day Counts program leadership,

On behalf of Owens Corning, I am writing to express support of the DOT Advisory Board's submission to the FHWA Every Day Counts program. Their submission seeks to give DOTs the tools and knowledge to evaluate and design with alternative methods of reinforcement and composite technology, such as and including fiberglass rebar. Furthermore, we support the DOT Advisory Board, led by Richard Krolewski of Regulatory Resources. This advisory board is all-volunteer and composed of 10 DOT materials and bridge engineers.

Owens Corning is a global building and industrial materials leader. The company's three integrated businesses are dedicated to the manufacture and advancement of a broad range of insulation, roofing and fiberglass composite materials. Leveraging the talents of 19,000 employees in 33 countries, Owens Corning provides innovative products and sustainable solutions that address energy efficiency, product safety, renewable energy, durable infrastructure, and labor productivity. These solutions provide a material difference to the company's customers and make the world a better place.

Bridges, seawalls, electric grids, and all facets of infrastructure that keep a state's citizens safe, healthy, and thriving are some of the biggest costs governments face. Owens Corning has been focused on providing material solutions that make the most of those investment dollars.

The use of fiberglass rebar has been growing over the last 20 years as structural owners and engineers look for smarter ways to build. Fiberglass rebar's non-corrosive properties, especially when used in concrete exposed to saltwater or de-icing salts are showing drastic reductions in maintenance costs and increases in structural lifespans by multiples. Fiberglass rebar also brings a unique value in being electromagnetically neutral, making it a prime material for highway toll areas, electrified rail plinths, and ports and warehouses that use Automated Guided Vehicles. More so, fiberglass rebar is one fourth the weight of steel – a fact that contributes to worker safety and faster installations, as well as simply expanding the candidate pool for this work as more people can literally carry the weight of the materials being used. For all these reasons, our rebar can already be found in projects across the country and as we look to the future, we consider how fiberglass rebar could add value and longer lifespans to many more structure.

While a few states have caught on faster to the benefits of fiberglass rebar, broader adoption is still a way off as states work to resource the tools, tests, and demonstrations to build their comfort with this material that by industry norms is still relatively new. The DOT Advisory Board's proposal would help states share resources and allow them to consider reinforcements that can dramatically increase their structures' lifespans and lower maintenance costs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Kittredge", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steve Kittredge  
Managing Director, Government Relations