



Natural building blocks for quality of life

April 22, 2008

Dear Member of Congress:

Members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA) have a good story tell the American people about the aggregates industry. Crushed stone, sand and gravel truly are the basic materials in practically everything that makes modern life possible and enjoyable. From the streets, roads, sidewalks, homes and buildings in each community to the toothpaste, cleansers, baby powder and computer chips that we use every day, aggregates products make a vital, positive contribution to our way of life.

However, few people actually stop to think about the importance of aggregates to their daily lives. Most do not relate a nearby quarry or sand and gravel operation to the safe roads and bridges they drive on or to the strong buildings and sturdy houses they work and live in. Many people in communities where aggregate producers operate do not have a clear picture of the economic, environmental and societal benefits associated with those operations.

NSSGA members identify sustainability as a strategic business approach that integrates the concepts of environmental stewardship, social responsibility and economic prosperity to ensure the long-term supply of aggregates materials to the communities in which we operate. Sustainability is not a catchword any longer. It really is a value and, in fact, NSSGA's Board of Directors made it a guiding principle for NSSGA members.

Sustainability means that we care about people, we care about our environment and we care about making products that help build American's economy. And, it is that principle that we are going to be guided by through the 21st century.

We have the responsibility to protect the health and welfare of mothers, fathers, sons and daughters of our workforce, who are the very community that gives us the right to operate our businesses in their neighborhood.

We have the responsibility to be effective stewards of the land we develop and, ultimately, return to the community properties that have a second life as recreation areas, residential housing, wildlife habitat, and more.

We have the responsibility to provide adequate supplies of aggregate materials to our communities to build sound infrastructure to maintain a high quality of life, providing such necessities as safe roads, sturdy houses and strong bridges.

Finally, we recognize that sustainable practices are necessary today to preserve the potential for an even better quality life for future generations.

Additionally, I am pleased to call your attention to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) NSSGA signed with the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) that establishes a framework for the cooperation between NSSGA and WHC to work with industry to encourage participation in the programs of each organization and to engage and demonstrate voluntary corporate leadership in environmental performance, including enhancement and restoration of wildlife habitat.

"This MOU solidifies our long-standing partnership with, and support for, WHC and their programs. NSSGA and our members have long supported the goal of WHC to increase biodiversity on corporate lands," said NSSGA President and CEO Joy Wilson.

Specifically, the MOU allows NSSGA and WHC to:

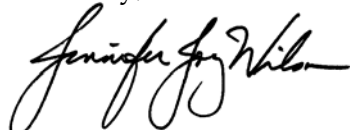
- Engage and demonstrate voluntary corporate leadership in environmental performance including enhancement and restoration of wildlife habitat.
- Work with industry managers to encourage their participation in the programs of each organization.
- Facilitate and enhance community involvement in projects at corporate sites.
- Work cooperatively to continuously strengthen the performance involvement initiatives of both organizations.
- Work toward establishing a joint recognition program for contributions by NSSGA participating sites in the various criteria of WHC's wildlife habitat enhancement and conservation education programs.

Robert Johnson, WHC President said, "WHC also values our long-term partnership with NSSGA and their members. This agreement reinforces the industry's commitment to voluntary efforts that curb the global loss of habitat and biodiversity." Celebrating its twentieth year, the Wildlife Habitat Council is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. More than 2.4 million acres in 48 states, Puerto Rico and 16 other countries are managed for wildlife through WHC-assisted projects. For more information, visit WHC online at <http://www.wildlifehc.org/>.

Based near the nation's capital, NSSGA is the world's largest mining association by product volume. Its member companies represent more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel produced annually in the U.S. and approximately 118,000 working men and women in the aggregates industry. During 2007, a total of about 2.56 billion metric tons of crushed stone, sand and gravel, valued at \$21 billion, were produced and sold in the United States.

Members of NSSGA have a great story to tell. For more information, please give us a call at (703) 525-8788 or visit our website at www.nssga.org.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Joy Wilson
President & CEO