



*Natural building blocks for quality of life*

September 27, 2005

**\*\*\*KEY VOTE ALERT \*\*\***

Dear Member of Congress:

The National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association endorses H.R. 3824, The Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005, and urges you to vote in support of this much-needed legislation. This will be a key vote for the association.

NSSGA believes that protection of endangered species and the regulation of land use are important public policy issues that should be addressed by Congress. We support a scientifically-based program that takes a common-sense approach to protecting endangered species while recognizing private property rights and the need for continued economic growth. The legislation, as passed by the Resources Committee, addresses the concerns of the aggregates industry, and in our view will help improve species conservation across America.

For the past 35 years, environmental progress has been driven by “top-down” approaches, and prescriptive legislation and regulations. While progress has been made, the authoritative character of the laws and regulations generated large amounts of ill will towards those policies. Many recognize that if we as a nation are to improve on past successes, the federal government needs to change its approach to saving and preserving endangered species from adversarial to one of cooperation and inclusion, and work *in partnership* with property owners. Considering two-thirds of endangered species are located on private property, NSSGA applauds the numerous provisions in H.R. 3824 that will make this common-sense approach a reality.

As the largest mining association by product volume in the world, NSSGA member companies produce more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel consumed annually in the U.S. and employs approximately 115,000 men and women. During 2004, a total of about 2.86 billion metric tons of crushed stone, sand and gravel, valued at \$16 billion, were produced and sold in the United States. In 29 of the 50 states, crushed stone, sand and gravel are the principal nonfuel mined materials produced, and in another 15 states, our product is the second most valuable nonfuel mined material produced.

NSSGA and its members strongly urge you to vote in support of this common sense and much needed legislation – for the benefit of endangered species and their neighbors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Joy Wilson".

Jennifer Joy Wilson  
President & CEO

