



Natural building blocks for quality of life

April 21, 2005

Dear Member of Congress:

As we mark Earth Day 2005, the aggregates industry has much to celebrate. As the largest mining association by product volume in the world, the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA) is proud of the work its members do every day to improve the quality of life of every American, while conserving and protecting the world around us.

Following NSSGA's Environmental Guiding Principles, our members consistently strive to go beyond requirements of laws and regulations when it comes to protecting the environment. Each year, NSSGA recognizes those aggregate producers who exemplify top environmental stewardship in the industry with the Environmental Eagle Award. We all depend on the Earth's resources and wise environmental stewardship is necessary to preserve the quality of life for future generations.

The aggregates industry is working to preserve our environment in part through reclamation. Reclamation efforts, during and after mining, help return the land to useful purposes. Today, many pits and quarries are converted to functional, attractive and valuable end uses, like parks and open space facilities, gardens, wildlife habitats, geologic study sites, wetlands, and so much more. I encourage you to visit the following sites to learn more about how the aggregates industry works to make the land better for those who follow us: <http://www.nssga.org/environment/reclamation.cfm> and <http://www.mii.org/recl.html>.

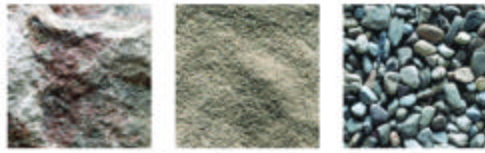
The National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association's member companies produce 90 percent of the crushed stone, and 70 percent of the sand and gravel consumed annually in the United States. Aggregates are the largest component of both asphalt and concrete. More than three billion tons of aggregates were produced in the U.S. in 2004 at a value of approximately \$16 billion, contributing \$37.5 billion to the GDP of America. In 29 of the 50 states, crushed stone, sand and gravel are the principal nonfuel minerals produced, and in another 15 states, our product is the second most valuable nonfuel mineral produced. With over 10,000 sites nationwide and a workforce of 115,000 men and women, most Congressional Districts are home to multiple operations.

The aggregates industry is truly shaping landscapes for tomorrow as it preserves land for future generations of Americans through conservation efforts like these. I am proud of all the things our industry does and the products it provides that help maintain a good quality of life while protecting and preserving the land for future generations to come. If you would like more information or a presentation on the environmental benefits of stone, sand and gravel, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jennifer Joy Wilson.

Jennifer Joy Wilson
President and CEO



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Environmental Uses and Benefits of Stone, Sand & Gravel

Aggregates are employed throughout the country wherever any type of building or public works construction activity takes place. The physical, chemical and mechanical properties of aggregates make them an ideal construction material for a wide variety of uses.

Erosion Control & Slope Protection

- Dams
- Roadways and bridges
- Shorelines and navigation channels
- Rivers and stream banks
- Runoff control at construction sites
- Wetland and stream restoration

Filtration

- Sewage treatment
- Wastewater control
- Septic tank leaching fields
- Infiltration for aquifer replenishment

Acid Neutralization

- Streams
- Lakes
- Agricultural land

Reclamation of Mine Sites

- Habitat creation and maintenance
- Backfill
- Land cover

Landfills & Waste Disposal

- Leachate and gas collection layers
- Covers and protection
- Leachate pH adjustment

Concrete and Asphalt Construction for Public Works Infrastructure

- Sewage treatment plants
- Water purification plants
- Incinerators and recycling facilities
- Dams, reservoirs and water supply
- Utility lines

Coal Mine Dusting to Prevent Explosions

- Non-combustible limestone

Flue Gas Desulfurization

- SO₂ reduction using limestone