

NATIONAL STONE, SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION



Natural building blocks for quality of life
April 19, 2007

Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

For many, Earth Day is a time to reflect on the wonders of nature and assess how our actions as individuals and businesses impact the earth. The members of the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA) recognize that the earth's resources, upon which all life depends, are finite, and that wise environmental stewardship and sustainable practices are necessary today to preserve American's quality of life for future generations. For this reason, our members are proud of their environmental records and in reclaiming land in order to leave it better than before.

We also realize that the quality of life of all Americans depends on crushed stone, sand and gravel, as the entire built environment rests on these three products. Today, aggregates production accounts for about half of the non-fuel mining volume in the United States. In the future, the rebuilding of deteriorated roads, highways, bridges, airports, seaports, waste disposal and treatment facilities, water and sewer systems, and public and private buildings will require enormous quantities of aggregates. Providing this amount of material to maintain our current lifestyles will require a careful balance among the economic, social and environmental aspects of responsible aggregate resource management.

Our members integrate environmental, social and economic aspects of their business to ensure the long-term supply of aggregate materials to society. The following are examples of how our members contribute to environmentally responsible practices:

- Our members and our products play a role in green building construction by contributing to a growing number of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified projects across America. Aggregates also are used in "green" products such as porous pavements, which dramatically improves storm water management.
- Our members are focusing efforts to enhance biodiversity, conserve and create habitat at their operations, including through partnerships with the Wildlife Habitat Council and the World Wildlife Fund.
- Our members—and our products—help support Habitat for Humanity, which provides decent affordable housing to many Americans.
- NSSGA members and our products help sustain our local communities by providing raw materials as natural building blocks for quality of life. We are also very conscious of our need to provide economic, social and environmental value for these communities today, and for future generations to come.

As the largest mining association by product volume in the world, NSSGA's member companies produce 90 percent of the crushed stone and more than 70 percent of the sand and gravel consumed annually in the United States. Aggregates are the largest component of asphalt and concrete. More than 3 billion tons of aggregates were produced in 2006 at a value of approximately \$21 billion, contributing nearly \$40 billion annually to the GDP of the United States and each year it increases. With over 11,000 operations nationwide and a workforce of more than 117,000 men and women, most Congressional Districts are home to multiple aggregate operations.

If you have any questions, or would like more information on how aggregate operations are working to serve and protect the environment, please contact me.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Joy Wilson
President & CEO

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