

March 16, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

On behalf of the 400 members of the National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association, I am writing to support your work to review transportation technologies in today's hearing. NSSGA members will play a key role in delivering the materials that are critical to solving the challenges of our transportation system and we take great pride in our work to reduce emissions and promote sustainable business practices. I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight policies that we look forward to addressing with the Committee.

NSSGA represents aggregates producers and those who manufacture equipment and services that support the construction industry. Our members are essential to the work of this country, and we represent more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel consumed annually in the United States. Our members employ more than 100,000 hard-working men and women and are responsible for the essential raw materials found in every home, building, road, bridge, and public works project.

Aggregates are Part of the Solution

Stone, sand, and gravel are an essential resource for developing any type of infrastructure and are key to producing renewable energy sources and sustainable public works. From new electric vehicle charging stations, to natural gas and hydrogen production and transportation, our members stand ready to supply the needed construction materials for these projects that will be needed to reduce emissions across the transportation industry.

In producing these needed materials NSSGA members take every effort to run their operations effectively to minimize waste, reduce air emissions, and to conserve water and are always working to improving energy efficiencies and developing alternative energy sources. The aggregates industry has undertaken many greenhouse gas mitigation efforts, such as investing heavily in fuel-efficient mobile equipment and improving operational efficiency. Further, our members are working to deploy new technologies that help further the goal of reducing environmental impacts like the utilization of recycled construction materials.

NSSGA members are leaders in taking aggressive action to protect our environment and enhance environmental stewardship. Companies across the industry routinely develop award-winning projects reclaiming land and unused areas that conserve critical habitats and promote biodiversity.

Transforming Business Practices

NSSGA members are not shying away from making new capital expenditures in machinery, equipment and developing renewable energy sources that will reduce emissions and improve our environment. We would encourage Congress to look at providing additional incentives to drive greater demand for these investments. We support the creation of tax credits to be provided to the purchase of low emissions vehicles to help further reduce fleet impacts on the environment. These types of incentives will not only help our members ability to upgrade their fleets but will drive greater demand for low carbon vehicles that bolsters American manufacturing.

Material Neutral Decisions

As the Committee looks at ways to promote the development of materials that improve our nation's built environment, we strongly urge that any federal solutions do not provide preference for one material over others. NSSGA has always supported Congress's longstanding work to promote research and development of building solutions that advances the performance, sustainability, and reliability of the materials. That is because NSSGA members value innovation and are always working to develop state-of-the-art technologies that improves our transportation networks.

As you work to advance new technologies and solutions, we would urge for careful consideration to not limit critical research dollars that promote one material over others through select marketing activities. Projects should be decided on by their merits and decisions should be left to engineers and those with technical expertise in designing and executing projects. This will ensure only the best solutions, that truly solve our infrastructure challenges, are delivered at the best expense of the taxpayers

Sustainable Access to Construction Materials

We encourage the Committee to examine policies that ensure local sources of aggregates are available to supply construction projects. To build the 21st century energy and transportation infrastructure that will lead to reduced emissions we must have a sustainable supply of building materials.

Further, having access to locally sourced materials is a key factor in reducing costs of infrastructure projects and provides greater return to taxpayers. Further, decreasing the distance aggregates must travel to a project has shown to significantly reduce tail pipe emissions from haul trucks and improve road safety. Ensuring sustainable aggregates supply will support local economies with high paying jobs, reduce construction costs, and improve environmental outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration of NSSGA's views on these policies and we appreciate your leadership to address these important issues that impact the aggregates industry and our nation.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Johnson
President and CEO
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association