



NATIONAL STONE, SAND
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

June 25, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Blunt, Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you draft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide robust funding for two critical agencies whose work is paramount to advancing the wellbeing of the men and women of the aggregates industry: the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH); and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

NSSGA represents aggregates and industrial sand producers, as well as those who manufacture equipment and services that support the construction materials 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, who are responsible for the essential raw materials found in every home, building, road, bridge and public works project throughout the U.S.

Since 1977, MSHA has worked tirelessly to promote safe and healthful workplaces for U.S. miners. As protecting the health and wellness of employees is a core value for aggregates producers, NSSGA and its member companies strongly support the agency and have engaged in key partnerships to help accomplish its important safety mission.



We appreciate President Biden's commitment to MSHA in his FY 2022 budget request and urge the Committees to support additional funding for MSHA's Directorate of Educational Policy and Development (EPD). EPD is essential to promoting mine safety through better training and compliance assistance. Further, we call on the Committees to provide resources for thorough and continuous training of inspectors – particularly newly hired individuals and those who are transitioning from inspecting coal mines to inspecting metal/non-metal operations. We believe this will bolster the agency's goal of increasing enforcement consistency across the country.

As you know, NIOSH conducts critical applied research; develops criteria for occupational safety and health standards to protect workers; and provides technical services to government, labor and industry. NSSGA works closely with NIOSH to enhance worker safety and health in the aggregates industry. NIOSH has collaborated with NSSGA during the pandemic to improve strategies that prevent the spread of COVID-19 and encourage employees in the industry to get vaccinated. We strongly urge you to continue robust funding for NIOSH that empowers employers and workers to create safe and healthy workplace.

We thank you for your work in crafting this important legislation that promotes the health and safety of the American people. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

