



NATIONAL STONE, SAND
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

June 10, 2022

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman:

On behalf of the 400 members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I am writing to share our support for H.R. 8187 the Mining Schools Act of 2022 and urge the Committee on Natural Resources to advance this critical bill. NSSGA thanks Rep. Burgess Owens and Rep. Jim Costa for their leadership drafting this proposal that will help advance our nation's mining schools.

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 produced 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.

As you may know, our nation's mining schools are critical to the work of the aggregates industry, as they train the next generation of engineers and experts needed to build and operate the thousands of mines that supply over 2.56 billion tons of aggregates each year. The aggregates industry works closely with mining schools to provide students with internships, resources and on the ground training. Further, it is estimated that approximately 50 percent of the students graduating at these schools find gainful and high paying employment within the ranks of NSSGA member companies upon graduation.

The Mining Schools Act of 2022 will provide critical resources that drive opportunities and innovation to improve mining schools that are essential for our modern way of life. For example, if enacted, new programs could be developed that provide scholarships to prospective students who wish to enroll in a program that increases the use of data analytics and machine learning to optimize mining production. These types of innovative programs will not only grow the talent pool for the next generation of miners but help drive key innovations that improve safety and sustainability.

Our industry is staring at a historic workforce shortage, as we work to produce the materials needed to modernize infrastructure systems and build communities. The funding provided by this important



legislation will bring greater awareness to the high paying jobs across the aggregates industry and shape our future engineers and skilled workforce. If enacted, the Mining Schools Act of 2022 could help grow scholarships for qualified undergraduate students giving them the opportunity to learn and work in the mining industry. This bill will also allow for greater partnerships between industry and mining schools to bring “real world” exposure into the classroom.

NSSGA praises your work on this bipartisan legislation, as it will deliver a stronger and more skilled mining workforce which the aggregates industry greatly needs as we supply the building materials to improve America’s infrastructure.

Sincerely,

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

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

