



NATIONAL STONE, SAND  
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U. S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy and Minority Leader Jefferies:

On behalf of the 400 National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA) members, I am writing to share our strong support for H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act. NSSGA urges each member of Congress to support this needed act, which will unleash the potential of American energy and roll back permitting challenges, therefore allowing the aggregates industry to continue supplying essential building materials to American communities.

NSSGA proudly represents the nation's aggregates and industrial sand industries, which operate over 9,000 locations; employs over 100,000 people in high-paying jobs; and sources 2.5 billion tons of stone, sand and gravel each year. These raw materials are essential to rebuild and repair our country's aging infrastructure, as well as assist our nation's goals in lowering the overall energy cost for families.

H.R. 1 takes significant strides to fix a broken permitting reform process that currently makes the task of sourcing aggregates severely difficult. Under today's regulatory environment, public works project execution and infrastructure planning takes a significant amount of time and resources. If H.R. 1 is passed, the current National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process will be reformed to streamline all federal reviews for all sectors of the economy. H.R. 1 will also impose a 120-day deadline for filing litigation on final agency actions concerning energy and mining projects, providing more clarity in the permitting process for our producers. Clearing this red tape will allow stone, sand and gravel producers to expeditiously produce aggregates, which are used to deliver a more sustainable infrastructure; create more resilient communities; and enhance America's ability to develop critical energy.

Aggregates are the primary ingredients in asphalt pavements, cement and concrete. They are used in nearly all public works projects, including roads, highways, bridges, dams and airports. If H.R. 1 is



passed, it will prevent states from blocking interstate infrastructure projects. These projects are vital to the transportation and movement of energy production and distribution to American homes, schools, and businesses. Further, aggregates are an essential component to build pipelines, railways, processing and refining facilities and other energy-critical infrastructure. H.R. 1 will create certainty and provide direction to allow our country to build and modernize much-needed energy infrastructure and production facilities. NSSGA members stand ready to supply these materials to help achieve American energy independence and reduce reliance on foreign providers.

NSSGA member companies also produce materials that are used to extract oil and gas daily. Frac sand, an essential mineral in energy production, is used in oil and gas wells under very high pressure during hydraulic fracking. H.R. 1 will prohibit the President from banning this method of extraction, opening additional avenues to lower the cost of energy in the United States. Furthering our nation's energy independence cannot occur without industrial sand and the contribution of the companies that provide it.

If H.R. 1 is passed, lower energy costs will not only significantly help American families, but it will also assist our members by creating more efficient and cheaper means of production. NSSGA is very supportive of efforts to expand domestic energy production, as we continue to take strides to become an energy-independent nation.

Thank you for your consideration of the aggregates industry views and do not hesitate to reach out if we may be able to provide any assistance.

Respectfully,



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

