



The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services

Dear Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito, Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:
As you draft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill we urge you to provide robust funding for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) Mining Research Program, whose work is essential to advancing the wellbeing of the men and women of the mining industry.

NSSGA represents aggregates and industrial sand producers and the manufacturing and services providers who 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 are located in all fifty states and 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.

The National Mining Association (NMA) is a national trade association that includes the producers of most of the nation's coal, metals, industrial, and agricultural minerals; the manufacturers of mining and mineral processing machinery, equipment, and supplies; and the engineering and consulting firms, financial institutions, and other firms serving the mining industry. The safety and health of our nation's miners is the primary concern of all our members, and NMA has a long history of engagement in efforts to improve protection for miners. We have worked and continue to work with NIOSH to examine new technologies and techniques to protect miners' safety and health.

Founded in 1916, the Portland Cement Association (PCA) is the premier policy, research, education, and market intelligence organization serving America's cement manufacturers. PCA represents companies that operate cement manufacturing and storage facilities in all fifty states and Puerto Rico. Membership also includes businesses that provide equipment, machinery, and services to manufacturers. PCA's members represent more than seventy percent of clinker production in the U.S. cement industry. The cement and concrete industries contribute more than \$100 billion to the U.S. economy and employ more than 600,000 people.

IUOE represents membership across the United States. Our members are essential to the work of this country. Our members are located in all fifty states and employ more than 300,000 hard-working men and women in the

civil construction industry who are responsible for construction of every road, bridge and building project across the United States.

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. The signatories to this letter work closely with NIOSH to enhance worker safety and health in the mining industry. As you work to advance the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill, we urge you to increase funding, or at a very minimum retain the 2023 budget, of the Mining Research Program.

The research conducted and funding provided for extramural research by the NIOSH Mining Program are essential to continue furthering mine safety and health. The agency's research tackles everyday health and safety challenges that miners face including ergonomics, hearing conservation, ventilation, health exposures, vehicle collisions, training, and much more. We are grateful for the committee's support of the mining research programs, however, despite the critical work being done, its core budget has remained relatively stagnant since FY 2005. While there have been targeted funds allocated to support specific external research projects, those funds cannot go toward the hiring of new researchers and staff to replace those lost to retirement.

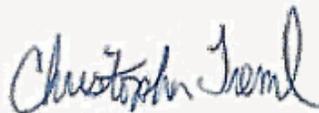
The mining research program at NIOSH is not fully staffed at the present time, which makes the agency less effective in carrying out their mission of furthering miner health and safety.

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,



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



Christopher Trembl
Executive Director
IUOE National Training Fund



Rich Nolan
President & CEO
National Mining Association



Kyle Zimmer
Health & Safety Coordinator
Members Assistance Program Coordinator
IUOE Local 478



Michael Ireland
President & CEO
Portland Cement Association

