



NATIONAL STONE, SAND
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

May 8, 2023

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment
& Public Works

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy
& Natural Resources

Dear Ranking Member Capito and Ranking Member Barrasso,

On behalf of the 450 members of the National Sand, Stone & Gravel Association (NSSGA), we write to share our deepest support for both the Revitalizing the Economy by Simplifying Timelines and Assuring Regulatory Transparency Act (RESTART Act) and the Spur Permitting of Underdeveloped Resources (SPUR) Act. These two pieces of critical legislation are key in helping our country's aggregate producers address unnecessary permitting hurdles, ending the confusion of WOTUS and providing regulatory certainty to many critical issue areas.

NSSGA represents the aggregates and industrial sand industry of our country, with over 9,000 facilities and more than 100,000 employees in high-paying jobs. This industry procures 2.5 billion tons of aggregates annually, which are crucial in sustaining our lifestyle and constructing our nation's infrastructure and communities. The products sourced by this industry are fundamental components required for building roads, airports, transit, rail, ports, clean water, and energy networks.

Over the last two years, Congress has adopted the largest infrastructure investment in our nation's history, a revitalization of our domestic manufacturing base and a reshaping of our energy future. Our industry is instrumental to delivering these results, as we provide the billions of tons of aggregates that will be used to pave new transportation networks; build new manufacturing hubs; and construct the networks that deliver reliable and renewable energy to every American home. However, burdensome, and duplicative permitting hurdles are stopping the thousands of transformative projects from coming to fruition. They also make it harder for our members to access and bring to market the materials needed to build. Every day we wait, it places more strain on our industry, as prices increase and uncertainty compounds.

That is why we profoundly thank Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito (WV) and members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for advancing the RESTART Act. This legislation includes critical reforms that will give aggregates producers the certainty they need to access the



material needed to build. Specifically, the legislation provides a long sought solution to decades of confusion related to the definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS). The RESTART Act also takes essential steps to streamline the project permitting timeline and reduces activist litigation opportunities that have stalled necessary infrastructure improvements for decades. In addition to other reforms included in the legislation, the RESTART Act provides commonsense permitting and project review reforms to build in America, lower prices, and protect the environment.

We also praise the leadership of Ranking Member John Barrasso (WY) and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for introducing the SPUR Act. This legislation will open new energy markets, unleashing American energy independence. NSSGA members provide the sand and construction materials needed to extract, refine and deliver energy to every American home. The certainty provided under the SPUR Act will give the aggregates and industrial sand industries the confidence to continue investing in communities and provide high paying jobs. Further, by driving more energy investment at home and reducing our dependence on foreign adversaries, the SPUR Act will stabilize energy inputs that are essential to our members' operations, further reducing inflationary pressures that have been impacting material producers.

Our members and I appreciate the significant step forward both pieces of legislation take for our industry and for the future of our nation's infrastructure. By enacting common sense proposals that remove unnecessary red tape and do nothing to undermine environmental protections, policymakers will once again deliver on their promises to the American people by delivering hard fought investments that improve every community. If you wish to have further discussions on the views of the aggregates industry, do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



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

