



NATIONAL STONE, SAND  
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

July 11, 2023

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
Chairman  
Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Ranking Member  
Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

On behalf of the 400 members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I am writing to share our support for S. 912, the Mining Schools Act of 2023 and thank you for your leadership in drafting this critical legislation.

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 our mining schools, providing internships, resources, and on the ground training to students. Further, it is estimated that approximately 50% of the graduating students at these schools find gainful and high paying employment within the ranks of NSSGA member companies upon graduation.

The Mining Schools Act of 2023 will provide critical resources that drive opportunities and innovation to improve mining schools that are so critical to 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, creating our future engineers and skilled workforce. If enacted, the Mining Schools Act of 2023 could help grow scholarships for qualified undergraduate students giving them the opportunity to learn and work in the



mining industry. The 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 the aggregates industry needs as we supply the building materials needed to improve America’s infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

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

