



NATIONAL STONE, SAND  
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

January 26, 2024

Subject: NSSGA's Support for New Clean Water Act Permitting Bills

Dear Members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee,

On behalf of the 450 members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), we write to express our strong support for the recently introduced bills aimed at enhancing the efficiency and clarity of the Clean Water Act (CWA) permitting processes.

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.

The series of bills introduced by the Republican Members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, namely the Nationwide Permitting Improvement Act, Reducing Permitting Uncertainty Act, Water Quality Criteria Development and Transparency Act, Judicial Review Timeline Clarity Act, and Confidence in Clean Water Permits Act, represent significant steps toward streamlining regulatory procedures and providing greater certainty for businesses in our sector.

1. Nationwide Permitting Improvement Act (by Rep. David Rouzer): This bill's focus on streamlining the Nationwide Permit (NWP) process aligns perfectly with our goal of maintaining efficient operations while ensuring environmental stewardship. The extension of the reissuance period and the clarity in the permitting process will greatly aid in project planning and execution.
2. Reducing Permitting Uncertainty Act (by Rep. Pete Stauber): This bill's effort to define the EPA's veto authority more clearly is crucial in avoiding unnecessary delays and ensuring that projects can proceed with greater certainty once a permit is granted.
3. Water Quality Criteria Development and Transparency Act (by Rep. Burgess Owens): We appreciate the emphasis on transparency and stakeholder engagement in developing water quality criteria under this bill. Our members' voices being heard and considered in these crucial guidelines is essential for balanced and practical environmental regulation.



4. Judicial Review Timeline Clarity Act (by Rep. Eric Burlison): Setting reasonable judicial review timelines is an important step toward preventing undue delays in crucial infrastructure projects. This bill will provide more predictability and efficiency in the legal processes surrounding environmental permits.

5. Confidence in Clean Water Permits Act (by Rep. John Duarte): The focus on clear, objective criteria in NPDES permits, and the assurance of liability protection for permit holders acting in good faith, is a welcome development that will foster more confidence in the permitting process.

These legislative initiatives collectively address key concerns of our industry, ensuring that essential projects are not hindered by bureaucratic delays or uncertainties. They strike a balance between environmental protection and the need for a more streamlined, predictable regulatory framework.

The NSSGA is committed to responsible environmental stewardship and understands the importance of effective and efficient regulatory processes. We believe these bills will help achieve these goals and thus strongly support their swift passage.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to these critical issues affecting our industry. We look forward to the positive impacts these bills will have on our members and the broader economy.

Sincerely,



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

