



NATIONAL STONE, SAND
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
The Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

On behalf of the over 500 member companies of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), we respectfully request that the Administration reconsider the elimination of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Mining Health and Safety Program, whose work is essential to advancing the wellbeing of the men and women of the mining industry.

NSSGA is the leading advocate for the aggregates industry, which produces the stone, sand and gravel needed for infrastructure. NSSGA applauds the President's Executive Orders on American energy, increasing mineral production and the Administration's broad goals of strengthening American infrastructure overall. We also recognize and appreciate the Administration's efforts to increase efficiency and eliminate fraud and wasteful spending in the federal government. However, our members have serious concerns regarding the recent decision to eliminate the NIOSH Mining Health and Safety Programs in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Morgantown, West Virginia and Spokane Washington.

The NIOSH Mining Program's mission is to eliminate mining fatalities, injuries and illnesses through relevant research and impactful solutions. It conducts critical applied research and provides technical services for mining operators and the manufacturing and services providers who support the construction materials industry, to which many, especially small businesses, otherwise would not have access.

The following are just a few examples of specific projects NIOSH, NSSGA and NSSGA member companies worked on together that have advanced miner health and safety:

- NIOSH and an NSSGA member company worked collaboratively on **ergonomics** issues resulting to reduce risk-factor exposures.



- NIOSH and an NSSGA member company worked collaboratively on a 3-year project on **hazard recognition training as a tool to reduce lost time injuries**.
- NIOSH and an NSSGA member company, worked collaboratively on the development of a **clothes cleaning booth** to safely remove respirable silica dust from the clothes of miners as a tool to reduce silica exposures.
- NIOSH worked with multiple NSSGA member companies on the **Helmet-CAM system and EVADE software**, tools that allow companies to better identify hazardous exposures in the workplace (dust, noise and others). <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/content/Helmet-CAMandEVADEpublications.html>

NSSGA supports the Department of Health and Human Services' efforts to make America and Americans healthier. This must include American miners. 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. The sound science, product, process and service enhancements provided by the NIOSH Mining Program all align with the Administration's goals, and loss of this Program will result in loss of safety and health improvements for the mining industry.

NSSGA is confident that the continued opportunity to collaborate and dialog with NIOSH will help advance the cause of miner health and safety and "make America healthier." Therefore, NSSGA respectfully request that the Administration reconsider the elimination of the NIOSH Mining Program. We would be happy to share additional details on the beneficial resources, outcomes and impacts of our members' collaborative efforts with NIOSH, including small businesses.

Thank you for considering our position. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Sincerely,



Michele Stanley
Interim President and CEO
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association

Cc: President Donald J. Trump

