ROCKS BUILD AMERICA’S FUTURE

NSSGA represents the producers of stone, sand, gravel (aggregates) and industrial sand, and the companies that manufacture equipment and provide services for the industries. These materials are the building blocks of our infrastructure—used in nearly all residential, commercial and industrial construction—essential to domestic energy development, and found in everyday items such as glass, cosmetics and chewing gum.

INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress must provide robust and sustainable federal funding for our nation’s infrastructure. While our federal government fails to maintain and upgrade our highways and bridges, other nations are using infrastructure to expand their economies. NSSGA urges Members of Congress to:

- Approve S. 2302, the American’s Transportation Infrastructure Act, which provides a five year reauthorization of our highway and bridge programs at historic investment levels.
- Coalesce around the common goal of enacting a long-term, robust and sustainable funding mechanism that addresses the Highway Trust Fund shortfalls with durable solutions that both stabilize and increase critical highway investments now to position America’s economy for future success.
- Ensure timely passage of Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations bills that make substantial investments in road construction, runway and airport improvements, revitalized rail networks, port improvements, and many other infrastructure projects.

ENSURE ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL BUILDING MATERIALS

In many areas of the country, communities have failed to recognize the importance of locally available aggregate resources and purposefully or inadvertently prohibited quarry development or allowed community development to overlay or encroach upon valuable aggregate deposits. Eliminating access to this important construction material strains government infrastructure budgets, at all levels, with unnecessary costs and has negative environment impacts.

That is why NSSGA strongly supports the Rebuilding Our Communities by Keeping Aggregates Sustainable (ROCKS) Act and asks every Member of Congress to support this critical legislation. This bill establishes a working group of federal, state and local stakeholders to examine the use of aggregates and institute a federal policy to ensure continued access to this critical resource.

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

The aggregates and industrial sand industries are responsible stewards of the environment. NSSGA members identify sustainability as a business approach that integrates environmental stewardship, social responsibility and economic prosperity to ensure the long-term supply of aggregates and industrial sand to society. That is why NSSGA would like Congress to:

- Update the Clean Water Act to ensure federally regulated waters (Waters of the U.S.) are clearly defined.
- Modernize the Endangered Species Act to focus on species recovery, encourage voluntary efforts, and balance the interests of landowners and local governments.
- Ensure EPA and other agencies base regulations on data that passes rigorous scientific and legal review.