

July 12, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the over 400-members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I am writing to urge your support for increased funding for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) as you draft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health, and Human Services (LHHS) Appropriations bill.

NSSGA is the leading voice and advocate for the aggregates industry, with member companies representing more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel consumed annually in the United States. Our members are responsible for the essential raw materials found in every home, building, road, bridge and public works project, employing over 100,000 working men and women. Aggregate businesses can be found in every Congressional district and are a trusted resource for all issues related to the aggregate industry.

As you know, NIOSH conducts critical applied research, develops criteria for occupational safety and health standards to protect workers, and provides technical services to government, labor, and industry. NSSGA works closely with NIOSH to enhance worker safety and health in the aggregate industry.

That is why we were pleased to see the FY 2020 LHHS Appropriations bill approved by the House of Representatives rejected the President's proposed reduction in funding for NIOSH and provide \$346 million, an increase of \$10 million over FY 2019. It is imperative the Senate also provide robust funding to NIOSH as you work on the FY 2020 LHHS Appropriations bill to ensure the agency continues to empower employers and workers to create safe and healthy workplaces.

We look forward to working with you and your counterparts in the House to ensure funding for NIOSH and the entire federal government is signed into law before the start of the new fiscal year.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and your dedication to improving the health and safety of our workers. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Michele Stanley, NSSGA Vice President of Government and Regulatory affairs at mstanley@nssga.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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