

January 20, 2021

The Honorable Patricia W. Silvey
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Operations
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Silvey:

On behalf of the 400 members of the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to continue working with you and your colleagues across the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to promote miner safety. The aggregates community values the strong working partnership we have with MSHA, especially over the course of the pandemic as we have been able to work together to address the challenges of COVID-19 in aggregates operations and keep miners safe.

As you well know, 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 consumed annually in the United States. Our members employ more than 100,000 hard-working men and women and are responsible for the essential raw materials found in every home, building, road, bridge and public works project.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, aggregates operators have taken aggressive actions to protect workers as they continue to produce essential building materials. It has become clear, that our partnership in developing new safety practices and executing them across the industry is working. To date, we have not seen an outbreak of COVID-19 traced back to quarries. From the multitude of ways operators have altered their work practices to how MSHA inspectors conduct inspections at quarries, we have found new successful ways to safely work during the pandemic that will continue throughout the vaccination campaign.

That is why we would strongly urge you to oppose implementing a broad Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) that hinders the progress we have made over the past ten months to keep employees safe during the pandemic. To that regard, I have enclosed additional information which details the actions NSSGA members are doing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if we may be able to provide any further resources that may be useful. We look forward to continuing the strong working partnership in the coming year to promote the health and safety of the men and women who work in aggregates operations.

Sincerely,



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

