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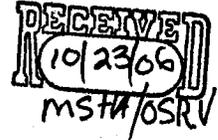
MONUMENT BUILDERS



OF NORTH AMERICA
"THE MARK OF EXCELLENCE"

October 18, 2006

MSHA
Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances
1100 Wilson Blvd., Room 2350
Arlington, Va. 22209-3939



For the Record - Statement of Objection

I would like to go on record as being opposed to the changes in the manner in which fines are being issued as stated in the proposed changes. I do not believe the point system is fair, it gives the inspector too much power which is based on assumption that he knows it all.

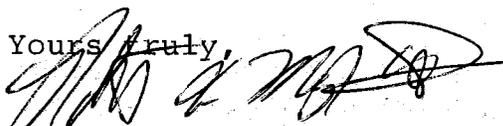
Even if the industry had the same number of citations the cost will be doubled due to the new system. If they reduced their citations by 50% they would still payout the same as the present amount - not much incentive there.

Our small business needs the support of our government not more fines and government intervention. I ask that the dimension stone operators be issued a variance from these rules and increased assessments. Don't penalize us for what has happened in other segments of the mining industry.

We are having to compete in a world wide economy against countries that have no regulations whatsoever; and they are allowed to sell their product in this country from laborers who make pennies a day. MSHA is in essence penalizing their own citizens and subsidizing communist governments in China and India.

In my opinion the assessments are excessive and will discourage development of existing operations. We would also like to have the time allowed for comments from the public, be extended. Many people affected by these changes are not aware of the proposal.

Yours truly,


Robert W. Mize, III
President

RAM/sjd

AB51-COMM-61