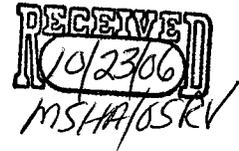


**BLUE RIDGE QUARRIES, INC.  
P. O. BOX 96  
ELBERTON, GEORGIA 30635**

**PHONE 706-283-2656  
FAX 706-283-1910**

October 18, 2006



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

Dear Sir or Madam:

I wish to express my objections to the proposed changes in the assessment of fines in the Mine Safety & Health CRR. I am a small business owner, operating a granite dimension stone quarry. I employ seven (7) people. Any kind of additional overhead expense at this time is pushing owners like me to the edge of elimination. Cheap foreign imports are stealing business away from us every day.

The CFR contains so many rules and regulations that it would be almost impossible for an inspector to come on this job site and leave without writing at least one citation. As you know, the point system proposed can make even one citation a very big pill to swallow. We ask that you issue a variance for small dimension stone quarries. Don't penalize us for some others misfortunes.

In my opinion the assessments are excessive and will discourage development of existing operations. We ask that the time allowed for comments from the public be extended. Many people are not aware of the proposal.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Paul, Jr." in a cursive style.

Robert E. Paul, Jr.  
Vice President  
Greene County Quarries, Inc.

AB51-COMM-73