

# REPUBLIC GRANITE COMPANY, INC.

*Operating*

**HIGHPOINT GRANITE CO., STERLING GRANITE CO. &  
ELBERTON GRANITE INDUSTRIES, INC.**

**SINCE 1924**

**QUARRIERS AND MANUFACTURERS of  
STERLING AND GENUINE SUNSET PINK GRANITES**



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**John McLanahan, Jr. • President**

October 19, 2006  
MSHA  
Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances  
1100 Wilson Blvd. Room 2350  
Arlington, VA 22209-3939

RE: 30 CFR Part 100 Proposed changes for assessment of civil penalties.

I hereby object to the proposed changes for assessing civil penalties as outlined in the Federal Register Vol. 71, No. 174, dated September 8, 2006. Substituting the point system for the single penalty assessment is patently unfair and gives inspectors unmitigated discretion to write citations resulting in inequitable assessments for mine operators and dimensional stone operations in particular.

The proposed changes will result in doubling the amount of the assessment even if the industry has the same number of citations in a subsequent inspection. If the industry reduces citations by 50%, the assessment remains the same as the previous assessment.

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

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 to be extended. Many people that will be affected are not aware by these proposed changes.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John D. McLanahan, Jr." followed by a stylized flourish.

John D. McLanahan, Jr. - President