

August 12, 2016

The Honorable Joseph Main
Assistant Secretary
Mine Safety and Health Administration
201 12th Street South
Arlington, Va 22202

Dear Joe,

On behalf of the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA), I would like to recognize the 40th anniversary of the National Mine Health and Safety Academy and congratulate them for achieving this major milestone. We applaud the efforts of the agency and academy for striving to consistently enforce safety standards at each stone, sand and gravel operation.

Job No.1 for our members is always safety and we are constantly striving to create a safe and healthy work environment. Many of our members are small and midsize operations that rely on the academy's valuable and easily-accessible library of information and best practices to comply with evolving standards.

For many years now, the Safety Alliance between MSHA and NSSGA has allowed us to improve the education and training for inspectors, operators and workers alike and we will strive to keep our relationship strong.

MSHA trainers have been a key part in our association's Noise and Dust workshops, which help operations improve compliance and serves as a great example of a productive collaboration between industry and regulators.

The aggregates produced by our members form the bedrock of our communities and national transportation systems. Our quarries produce the materials needed to improve our roads, bridges, houses and schools.

Our operations are working more efficiently and safely than ever before as America continues to grow and invest in our infrastructure. This is due, in large part, to the work of the academy and its dedicated public servants who help our workforce go home at the end of each shift.

So it is my pleasure to salute the vision of those who established the academy 40 years ago and to everyone who is committed to the safe and healthy production of stone, sand and gravel.

Once again, congratulations to MSHA and the Academy.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Johnson
President & CEO