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Building Stone Institute Unites with Masonry Industry to Present Views to Congress

Itasca, Illinois, June 7, 2006 – Building Stone Institute recently participated in the Masonry Industry Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Joining together at the conference were representatives from the Brick Industries Association, Building Stone Institute, Mason Contractors Association of America, and the National Concrete Masonry Association. For the first time ever, these groups united together to lobby Congress regarding their needs and common interests as an industry.

“Our membership is driven by national issues that have had or will have a profound effect on their day to day business,” said Jeff Buczkiewicz, BSI Executive Vice President. *“This was the first time that BSI has participated in a conference of this kind. This effort in particular was undertaken to express our industry’s needs and concerns for a guest worker bill as part of immigration reform. Many of our members rely on this type of labor to keep their businesses open. Without it, they would simply not be able to compete, and in some cases, their businesses would become obsolete.”*

This united industry group conducted Capitol Hill visits to personally meet with over 30 Representatives and Senators from 25 states to discuss prevailing issues and convey industry interests during the three day program.

In addition to the labor issues connected with immigration reform, other issues addressed at the Legislative Conference included: permanent reform of the Estate Tax, Highly Skilled Worker Bill, OSHA/MSHA reform, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transformation Initiative, rising energy costs, wind resistance in construction (and rebuilding the Gulf Coast states), and fire safety in construction. For more information on the Masonry Industry Legislative Conference, please contact Jeff Buczkiewicz at the Building Stone Institute (866/786-6313).

About Building Stone Institute

Founded in 1919, Building Stone Institute (BSI) is a not-for-profit trade association working on behalf of member quarriers, fabricators, dealers, importers, exporters, carvers, restorers, designers, and installers working with natural stone. BSI provides educational programs and resources to its members enabling them to offer the highest level of quality natural stone products and services, while emphasizing to end users the many benefits of designing with natural stone.

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