



Date: June 1, 2012

Senator Ron Johnson  
131 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

RE: NATURAL STONE COUNCIL MSHA POSITION STATEMENT

Dear Senator Johnson,

Eden Stone Company, Inc. and Valders Stone & Marble, Inc., are Wisconsin based fourth generation family owned quarriers and fabricators of natural stone. We employ approximately 175 people in our operation. Our product is supplied to an international market. As an employer constituent of yours, we feel it is of the utmost importance that we provide you with the attached qualitative and quantitative information.

Some time ago, several of our members met with the MSHA staff in Washington D.C. and we were told directly by MSHA that they are only doing what is demanded of them by the U.S. Congress. They added that they have no latitude and do not have the luxury of judgment in executing their enforcement directives from congress, regardless of the circumstances.

The attached statement and data represent a unified dimension stone industry position, regarding our issues with the regulatory governance, process and practices of Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). This Natural Stone Council position statement, which we contributed to and endorse, reflects the input of the leadership and members of a coalition that includes: Allied Stone Industries, Building Stone Institute, Elberton Granite Association, Indiana Limestone Institute, Marble Institute of America, National Building Granite Quarries Association, National Slate Association, Natural Stone Alliance, New York State Bluestone Association, Northwest Granite Manufacturers Association, and Pennsylvania Bluestone Association.

Our common concerns stem from the fact that MSHA's focus has shifted away from safety and towards enforcement. The NSC members are not alone in the effort to change MSHA's direction. The National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), representing 90% of the country's aggregate industry, is a leader in addressing MSHA concerns, and the NSC has benefitted from their advice and shared information. Both the NSC and the NSSGA have secured support for the efforts of Senator John Thune (SD), Congressman Heath Shuler (NC), Robert Hurt (VA), and David Roe (TN), and others to obtain clear answers from MSHA regarding many issues. As we continue to closely monitor these efforts, it is critical that you and your colleagues in the U.S. (Senate/House) clearly understand the impact of MSHA's policies and practices that are currently being employed. We need you to provide "common sense"

guidance to them and a fair and objective process by which new rules are considered rather than simply implemented via a mailed or emailed information bulletin. We need to have hearings with operator input, discussion and debate, and operator and inspector training prior to new rules being made effective. We need MSHA to focus on safety instead of enforcement.

Please review all of the attached information. We offer you the opportunity to visit our operations and take a tour of our facilities. We are proud of our company and our employees, and we would love to show you our commitment to safety first hand!

Thank you and I look forward to your response on these issues and our invitation for you to visit our company.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Roehrig". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Peter G. Roehrig  
Vice President  
Eden Stone Company

Cc: Dave Wirtz  
Rick Corser  
Bill Ripley