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RESPONSIBLE SAND COMPANIES BRING REAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO WISCONSIN

Rich Budinger, president of the Wisconsin Industrial Sand Association, today issued the following statement in response to a newly released report on the economic impact of industrial sand mining in West Central Wisconsin:

“Sand mining companies and municipalities absolutely can and should work together. Strong community interaction is an important part of the WISA Code of Conduct, and WISA members have very positive relationships with their host municipalities. That said, the report released today is the product of a paid consultant who is routinely critical of mining and whose clients frequently have an anti-mining bias. Its conclusions must be considered with that in mind.

“The Wisconsin Counties Association established an independent task force that recently conducted an in-depth review of the state’s sand industry. That group – made up of public officials who have first-hand experience with industrial sand mining in several West Central Wisconsin counties – concluded that when performed responsibly, sand mining brings numerous economic benefits to the Badger State. Those positives include job creation, construction and manufacturing impacts and ancillary services that benefit not only local communities, but also the entire state.

“Industrial sand mining has been part of Wisconsin – and a solid job-creator and contributor to the state economy – for more than a century. We owe our long and successful history here to a deep respect for the land, our neighbors and our communities. As leaders in the state’s sand mining industry, WISA and its members have shown that with a proper balance between sound operations, adherence to responsible regulations and good community relationships, we can operate safely and protect the environment while generating significant economic impact.”

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