



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**REGULATORY CERTAINTY ACT MAINTAINS STRICT – YET FAIR AND CONSISTENT –
REGULATION OF NON-METALLIC MINING IN WISCONSIN**

Rich Budinger, president of the Wisconsin Industrial Sand Association, today released the following statement regarding LRB 3146 and LRB 3408, the Regulatory Certainty Act:

“We join Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139, the Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association, Aggregate Producers of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Council of Carpenters, the Wisconsin Laborers District Council and others in supporting the Regulatory Certainty Act. The proposal provides clarity and predictability while maintaining already stringent and highly effective protections over safety, health and the environment. It reinforces the authority of DNR experts to regulate air and water quality statewide and reaffirms strong local zoning authority over industry, including non-metallic mining.

“WISA supports fact- and science-based regulation and operating standards and their enforcement. Creating uncertainty with a patchwork of local rules – in addition to the stringent state and federal regulations already in place – is counterproductive. Industry is already heavily regulated on the federal and state levels, but a puzzling tangle of additional local rules vary from community to community, change erratically over time and impose conflicting requirements. These extra rules do not protect the environment, health or community any better than existing state and federal regulations. They simply add confusion and stifle responsible growth and business.

“Sand mining has created jobs and other economic benefits in Wisconsin for more than a century. It is an essential component of the glass and foundry industries and is part of a national policy to achieve energy independence. But today’s uncertain regulatory environment unreasonably challenges even the very best operators. Our goal is to support and maintain strong and effective regulatory oversight of an important Wisconsin industry while eliminating duplication, promoting consistency and fostering an environment where good businesses can succeed.

“This legislation will continue a high level of protection over the state’s environmental and economic interests and help ensure that industry, including non-metallic mining, can keep operating responsibly, creating jobs and investing in Wisconsin.”

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