



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**BILL PRESERVES STRONG LOCAL AGREEMENTS, MAINTAINS 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 SB 632/AB 816, newly revised legislation relating to non-metallic mining sites introduced by State Sen. Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) and State Rep. Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan):

“WISA supports this legislation, which ensures that locally approved, legally permitted non-metallic mines can keep operating responsibly, creating jobs and investing in Wisconsin. The bill prevents misuse of municipal police powers to change the rules for existing permitted operations and properties, while continuing the high level of protection over the state’s environmental and economic interests provided by local and state government.

“Industrial sand mining has created jobs and other economic benefits in Wisconsin for more than a century. Industrial sand is an essential component of the glass, foundry and construction industries and its use as a proppant is part of a national policy to achieve energy independence. This bill will help achieve our goal of supporting strong and effective regulatory oversight of an important Wisconsin industry while fostering an environment where good and responsible businesses, like those operated by our WISA members, can continue to invest with confidence in our businesses and communities.

“WISA’s members have worked hard to build positive relationships with their host communities, and this legislation preserves those relationships and agreements. It’s a good bill that will make Wisconsin an even better place to do business. We are glad to see respected groups such as the Aggregate Producers of Wisconsin, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139, Wisconsin State Council of Carpenters, Wisconsin Laborers’ District Council, Iron Workers District Council of North Central States, the Wisconsin Pipe Trades Association and Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce support SB 632/AB 816, and we encourage others to do so as well.”

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