



**Testimony in Support of SB181 on behalf of the  
Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Minerals Association**

June 3, 2025

Good afternoon, Chairman Shaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Pat Jacomet and it is my honor to serve as Executive Director of the Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Minerals Association (“OAIMA”) and on behalf of the OAIMA, we are pleased to offer our strong support for SB181.

Our membership is comprised of over 250 companies involved in the production of construction aggregates and industrial minerals for use in everything from roads and bridges to homes, schools, hospitals, water and sewer services and everything in-between. For example, asphalt roads are 95% aggregate and Portland cement concrete is about 85% aggregate. Every lane mile of interstate uses 38,000 tons of aggregate and every Ohioan uses approximately 10-11 tons of aggregate each year. These products serve as the building blocks for all of Ohio’s economy.

Multipliers for the aggregate industry prove the outstanding economic worth of our amazing industry. Each dollar of wages in the aggregate sector creates another \$4.19 of earnings in other sectors and each dollar of sales produces another \$3.47 of sales in other industries.<sup>1</sup> In fact, the Ohio Statehouse, in which we are gathered today, is made up of over 55,000 tons of Columbus Limestone. The major renovation of the statehouse and senate building (1992-1996) used another 350 tons of limestone which can from the local Marble Cliff Quarry in addition to the massive 100-ton columns used to construct the atrium.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Phoenix Center for Advance Legal & Economic Public Policy Studies.

<sup>2</sup> Geology in the Public Square: Ohio Statehouses from 1800 to Today. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey. By Mark E. Wolfe., 2008 No. 2

In 2023 (the last reported year by the Ohio Geological Survey) Ohio operations produced over 110 million tons of aggregate worth over \$1.6 Billion.<sup>3</sup> Over 50% of this quantity is used in public works projects and paid for with tax dollars.

It is important to note that 99% of construction aggregates are used within 50 miles of where they are extracted. Transportation greatly increases the delivered cost of these construction materials, thus necessitating the need for local sources.

Therefore, it is critical that public policy recognize this extremely important resource and implement common sense rules and regulations that protect access to these critical resources.

A December 2021 report entitled, “Analysis of Ohio’s Fine and Coarse Aggregate Reserve Balances” highlighted the need for additional aggregate resources. This report was funded by the Ohio Department of Transportation and found that in some areas of the state, zoned reserves would be exhausted in as little as 11 years. It should be noted that this report was published prior to the announcement of many of the mega-projects that are underway now and projected for future construction. The report recommended developing strategies to avert potential shortages and identified one such strategy as the expansion of underground mining.<sup>4</sup>

With this background, the OAIMA has been working with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Mineral Resources Management for the past 3-plus years to draft a common-sense regulatory program that encompasses the latest technologies and best practices of underground mines both in Ohio and across the country. ODNR, through its current regulatory authority over surface industrial minerals mining, has the expertise, tools, personnel, equipment and resources necessary to oversee this new regulatory program.

You may be asking yourself, “Why would an industry group support additional regulation?” The answer is simple. Our industry, like many others, operate under multiple regulatory agencies and we depend upon “Regulatory Certainty” to

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<sup>3</sup> 2023 Report on Ohio mineral industries: An annual summary of the state’s economic geology, compiled by Christopher E. Wright, Ohio Geological Survey.

<sup>4</sup> Analysis of Ohio’s Fine and Coarse Aggregate Reserve Balances, Prepared for The Ohio Department of Transportation, Office of Statewide Planning & Research. Project I.D. 111464, December 2021

maintain productive, efficient, safe and sustainable operations. SB181 as introduced, provides regulatory certainty with oversight by an agency that has the expertise and resources to do the job.

Following my testimony, you will be hearing from our legal counsel, Mr. Brian Barger, who will provide much more detail about the bill and will be able to answer the more technical questions. We strongly support SB181 as introduced and ask for your support as we continue to provide the materials that build Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I will gladly try to answer any questions you may have.

## **About The Aggregates & Industrial Minerals Industry**

With nearly 250 members statewide, the Ohio Aggregates and Industrial Minerals Association represents Ohio's producers of limestone, sand, gravel, slag and other construction materials, as well as a variety of industrial minerals. Aggregates and industrial minerals are the basic elements in all construction activity and economic development in Ohio depends upon good, quality, local and reliable resources. 99% of construction aggregates are mined and used locally, generally within 50 miles of where they are extracted.

Limestone, sand, gravel and slag are the state's most fundamental building blocks. For instance, concrete is composed of 85% aggregate while asphalt is comprised of approximately 95% aggregates. It is important to note that over 50% of all aggregates are purchased with tax dollars.

Every lane mile of interstate uses 38,000 tons of aggregate, each new home requires about 400 tons of aggregate and every American born today will need 3.6 million pounds of minerals, metal and fuels in his or her lifetime including 1.7 million pounds of aggregates and industrial minerals mined in Ohio. On average, each Ohio citizen uses approximately 10-11 tons of aggregates and industrial minerals that are mined in Ohio each year (up from a national average of 3 ½ tons/person 70 years ago).

Ohio has 554 aggregates and industrial minerals operations in 87 Ohio counties. The industry employs nearly 3,200 people with above-average wages. Another 40,000 Ohioans are employed indirectly in Ohio's minerals industry such as truck drivers, electricians, mechanics and other supply and supporting professions.