

Natural Stone Industry Legislative Brief

Quick facts about the industry that uses dimension and building stone for interior and exterior construction.

What types of companies make up the stone industry and Natural Stone Institute membership?

The entire supply chain—stone producers, exporters/importers, distributors/wholesalers, fabricators, finishers, installers, and industry suppliers.

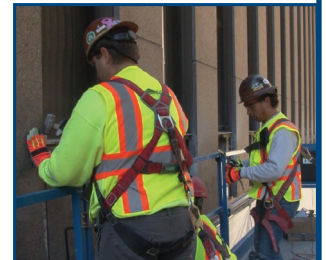


Number of Companies:
15,435

Number of Employees:
185,966



Total Consumption of
Dimension and Crushed Stone:
\$30 billion



Four Legislative Issues of Importance

Tax Reform Must Benefit Small and Family-Owned Businesses, Not Only Corporations: The majority of members are organized as pass-through entities, sole proprietorships, partnerships, LLC, or S Corporations, which pay tax on business income at the individual tax rate. The term “pass-through” comes from the way the income earned by the business “passes through” to the owner. While most discussions on tax reform are about lowering the corporate tax rate, tax reform must also include lowering the individual tax rate to support pass-through business, like members of Natural Stone Institute.

U.S. Mine Safety & Health Administration (MSHA) Reform: We value our partnership and collaboration with MSHA. However, Natural Stone Institute does have concerns about the “one-size-fits-all” approach of mining regulations by MSHA. The distinction between open pit mining and underground mining is an important one. The vast majority of quarry members utilize open pit to quarry their product. We encourage Congress to update mining regulations to allow regulators the flexibility to distinguish between these two very different types of operations.

Percentage Depletion: We urge Congress to retain the present-law percentage depletion tax deduction as their committee considers tax reform. Keeping the percentage depletion tax deduction at its current levels is a critical component to the competitiveness of American natural resources industries.

Reasonable and Responsible Regulation: We support congressional efforts to hold federal regulatory agencies accountable for their promulgation of new rules and regulations and the recent trend of issuing guidance or policy letters in order to circumvent the public comment and cost-benefit analysis process that allows for industry input.

