



# ELBERTON GRANITE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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The Honorable Rick Allen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
462 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Mike Collins  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2351 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20515

**Re: Support of H.R. 5437 - Protection of Lawful Commerce in Stone Slab Products Act**

Dear Representatives Allen and Collins,

On behalf of the quarry operators, manufacturers, distributors, and skilled trades professionals that form the Elberton Granite Association, we write to respectfully request your support of H.R. 5437, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Stone Slab Products Act. The signatories of this letter collectively employ voters in the Elberton, Georgia area and strongly believe this legislation is necessary to protect jobs in Georgia and preserve its natural-stone industry.

As you know, the Elberton granite industry is one of eastern Georgia's historic economic engines. For more than a century, our community has produced premium natural stone and supported hundreds of direct and indirect jobs in Georgia — quarry workers, carvers, manufacturers, equipment manufacturers, transporters, and installers, including many family-owned, small businesses. We take this heritage seriously and work every day to preserve it, operating our businesses responsibly with a strong concern for the health and safety of our workers.

Recently, however, a wave of predatory litigation, mostly arising out of southern California, has attempted to hold upstream manufacturers and distributors liable for health harms related to fabrication activities that they do not perform and cannot control. These lawsuits treat finished natural stone slabs as though they inherently injure workers, even when the actual risk arises solely from improper fabrication by unscrupulous third parties operating without regard to existing OSHA standards.

The result is a legally untenable situation that threatens the long-term viability of the Georgia granite industry:

- Companies with leading health and safety practices are exposed to lawsuits for work undertaken by third parties, often years after the sale and regardless of precautions they have taken to highlight potential health hazards relating to fabrication.

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*Elberton Georgia... "the Granite Capital of the world"*



- Litigation is directed at the quarriers and distributors engaged in the lawful commercial sale of slabs, rather than the low-end fabricators who disregard OSHA safety standards and are actually able to mitigate these health risks
- The economic ripple effects threaten investment, access to capital, and workforce stability in the natural stone industry and ultimately may threaten its very existence.

H.R. 5437 does not diminish worker protections and does not insulate from litigation those fabricators that disregard safety standards from responsibility for injuries suffered by their employees. Instead, it simply shields upstream quarriers, manufacturers, and distributors from liability for harms arising from the actions of third-party fabricators that disregard applicable safety standards. Fabrication activities are already governed by robust federal and state occupational safety laws, such as OSHA silica standards. Responsibility for responsible fabrication should lie with the party that performs and controls the fabrication process.

If upstream quarriers, manufacturers, and distributors are held to be liable for downstream fabrication, thousands of U.S. stone suppliers will continue to be targets for opportunistic litigation regardless of whether or not they have acted responsibly and in compliance with applicable rules and standards.

EGA members and their affiliates have been targeted by these lawsuits for several years now, and some have incurred millions of dollars in costs defending meritless litigation. This situation cannot continue indefinitely and the very existence of the Georgia natural stone industry will be placed at risk if it does.

We believe H.R. 5437 strikes the right balance by:

- Protecting lawful commerce.
- Making negligent and unscrupulous fabricators responsible for their actions.
- Preserving the viability of the American natural stone industry without weakening worker health protections.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to engage with your office to discuss these issues directly. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and for your continued support of Georgia's working communities. We respectfully urge you to support H.R. 5437.

Sincerely,



Chris Kubas  
Executive Vice President  
Elberton Granite Association  
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Ross Oglesby



Board of Trustees President - EGA Member Company Representative  
Elberton Granite Association

EGA Member Companies

Baston Monuments, Inc.	Savannah Valley Quarries, LLC
Beaverdam Quarry	Solid Rock Granite Interiors
Blue Ribbon Quarries, Inc.	Southern Granite Company, Inc.
Blue Sky Quarries, Inc.	Star Granite Interiors
Broad River Quarries, LLC	Sterling Gray Quarries, LLC
Brownstone Memorials, Inc.	Superior Granite Company, Inc.
Burton Monument Company, Inc.	Walker Granite Company, Inc.
Central Granite Company, Inc.	Wallace Granite Sales
Childs & Childs Granite Company, Inc.	Design Mart, LLC
Coldwater Granite, LLC	Diamond Cut & Polish Company, Inc.
Dixie Granite Company	Don Jones Enterprises, Inc.
Geneva Granite Company, Inc.	Granite Sales and Supply Corporation
Georgia Mausoleums, Inc.	Hulme's Tool Shop
G.B. Moon Granite Memorials, Inc.	Imex International, Inc.
Glass Art imaging, LLC	Miles Supply of Elberton, Inc.
Gold Eagle Quarries, Inc.	South Eastern Memorial Restoration
Granites of America	Spartan Tool Company, Inc.
Hillcrest Granite Company, Inc.	A.Q. Stone Design Company
Holland Granite Company, LLC	Duncan Transportation Service, LLC
Hunter Granite Sales, Inc.	Elberton Industrial Electric, Inc.
Ideal Aggregate, LLC	Evanswinn International, LLC
J & B Granite Company, LLC	Flat Creek X-Press
J & D Finishing, LLC	Henry & Henry, Inc.
J & R Finishing Company, LLC	Husqvarna Construction Products
Keystone Memorials, Inc.	Jenson Etching, LLC
King's Monument Company, Inc.	Johnson Machine Shop, Inc.
L & M Granite Company, LLC	Kris Hendrix Etchings
Majestic Marble	Memorial Art
Matthews Granite	Nelson Granite, Inc.
McCannon Granite Company, Inc.	Porcelains Unlimited, LLC
Mize Granite Sales, Inc.	Robert's Contracting, Inc.
Pink Pearl Quarry, LLC	Sonya's Memorial Drafting, Inc.
Polycor Georgia Granite Quarries, Inc.	Stone Graphics, Inc.
Pyramid Materials, Inc.	Travco Metal Works, LLC
Quality Monument Sales, Inc.	U-Blast Stencil LTD
Reliance Granite Company, Inc.	Wilson Industrial Electric, Inc.
River Edge Granite Company, Inc.	