

January 15, 2026

The Honorable Erin Houchin
U.S. House of Representatives

104 W Hackberry Street
Salem, IN 47167

342 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Representative Houchin,

The **Indiana Limestone Institute of America, Inc.** represents the historic Indiana limestone dimension building stone industry centered here in Lawrence, Monroe and Owen counties. Our 66 members include the quarry operators here in Indiana, along with stone fabricators and industry partners located across North America and Canada, representing over 2,000 workers and the families that rely on them.

We write to respectfully request your support and co-sponsorship of **(H.R. 5437), the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Stone Slab Products Act**. This bill introduced in the 119th U.S. Congress (2025-2026) by Rep. Tom McClinton (R-CA), aims to shield natural stone slab producers from harm resulting from downstream third-party alteration in the chain of custody.

Dimension stone used in building cladding, paving and other applications is a naturally occurring benign material. There are, however, some cutting and carving processes that may release particulates during processing that need to be controlled as airborne dust in cutting operations and suspended solids in recirculated and recycled water used to cool equipment. There are also Federal and State regulations such as OSHA, IOSHA, EPA and IDEM that govern safe handling and processing to ensure worker safety and environmental protection.

With the exception of shared ownership, no company controls the day-to-day operations of their downstream partners. It is the individual responsibility of each company in the chain of custody to adhere to these standards in their operations.

Limiting legal action to those who ignore regulations and dis-allowing legal action against upstream suppliers will eliminate an egregious financial defense burden, will help protect jobs

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

and limit what proponents call "frivolous" litigation originating from states such as California. Allowing this practice to continue may also establish case law precedent that will be difficult to unwind and negatively affect numerous industries, inevitably impacting many thousands of jobs.

Since 1827, the Indiana Limestone dimension stone industry has played a significant role, and established a legacy, in the building of numerous iconic structures in our country including the Federal Triangle, The Pentagon, The Washington National Cathedral and the Empire State building. Trademarked as The Nation's Building Stone™, we continue to grow, provide essential jobs, and building stone for use in structures all across North America and around the world.

At the behest of our Board of Directors and on behalf of our company members, we wholeheartedly endorse and support (H.R. 5437), the **"Protection of Lawful Commerce in Stone Slab Products Act."**

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,



Todd Schnatzmeyer, AIA/LEED-AP
Executive Director
812.369.2010 cell
todd@ilai.com