

NSSGA WORKER TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

ALEXANDRIA, Va., March 26 — Joyce Fisk, a "belly-dump truck" driver for NSSGA Member company Knife River Corporation, testified March 26 before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Mrs. Fisk has worked for Knife River since July of 2002.

Fisk was asked to tell her story to the Committee after meeting Chairman Oberstar in July 2009 while working on the Interstate 35 project, a project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act located near North Branch Minnesota. Fisk and her husband are both Knife River truck drivers who were worried about their jobs when the recession took hold in 2008 and continued in 2009 leading to an unemployment rate of 27.1% in the construction sector. According to Fisk, "My husband and I started to wonder what we were going to do if something didn't come in soon." Fisk credits the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for preserving her and her husband's jobs.

NSSGA Chairman & Knife River President Bill Schneider praised Fisk for her willingness to testify. He commented, "Joyce's story is compelling and it is a story that is being heard across the country in these tough times." Schneider continued, "We appreciate that Congress passed an extension of the highway bill to the end of this year. But, the gains from the transportation funding boost (about three percent of the economic stimulus law) will be lost if Congress does not act now to pass a robust multi-year surface transportation reauthorization. Chairman Oberstar continues to put the spotlight on a critical issue that must gain priority attention by Congress and the Administration."

NSSGA President Joy Wilson added, "We applaud Joyce Fisk for taking the time to come to Washington and help Members of Congress understand what it's really like on the roads of America, what's happening in our construction materials (crushed stone, sand and gravel) industry, and how easily an enormous number of American, good-paying, private-sector jobs can be created right now. Mrs. Fisk reinforces by her own experience, what business, labor and construction industries have been calling on Congress to do: create jobs now by addressing our nation's crumbling transportation infrastructure. As Joyce says in her testimony, 'Let's end the band-aid approach and start a trend that is going to offer real jobs that are going to last more than a summer or two.'"

Based near the nation's capital, NSSGA is the world's largest mining association by product volume. Its member companies represent more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel produced annually in the U.S. and approximately 111,400 working men and women in the aggregates industry. During 2009, a total of about 1.91 billion metric tons of crushed stone, sand and gravel, valued at \$17.2 billion, were produced and sold in the United States. Please visit www.nssga.org.