Kafka Granite LLC
Producers of Architectural and Landscape Aggregates

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RE: Sustainable Mining Practices

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Leader in the Natural Stone Industry and to help with the minimal Environmental Impact, Kafka Granite is committed to Sustainable Mining Techniques. In an effort to sustain this commitment, Kafka Granite is committed to the following:

1. LOWER-IMPACT MINING TECHNIQUES
Traditional mining techniques can have a severe impact on the environment. Kafka instills a minimal surface disturbance at mining sites, while lowering soil erosion and move less material that would need backfilled. Lowering interference in this way can both reduce environmental impact and result in less work when preparing a site for quicker revegetation or rehabilitation.

2. REUSING MINING WASTE
Mining naturally produces significant amounts of waste — such as tailings, rock, and wastewater. In many cases, businesses leave waste behind when mining operations cease. Luckily, for almost every category of mining waste, there are at least one or two ways to reuse that waste on- or off-site. Kafka uses waste rocks in simple on-site construction, like backfilling voids and reconstructing mined terrain in a way that prevents soil erosion and can also be used for another biproduct.

3. ECO-FRIENDLY EQUIPMENT
Mining companies wanting to reduce their environmental impact can switch to more eco-friendly equipment. Battery-driven mining equipment is often powerful enough to replace diesel-driven options. Replacing diesel engines with electric engines where possible can significantly reduce the amount of CO2 produced by mining operations. In general, the mining industry is already moving in the direction of electric equipment, with more and more mining manufacturers offering eco-friendly alternatives. Some are making more significant commitments — Kafka will continue to look at these as options as the future develops in this area. A push towards exclusively using electric mining equipment could easily result in massive carbon savings for mining companies. Businesses wanting to become more sustainable could also upgrade to more advanced, durable equipment that lasts longer, reducing the turnover of machinery and decreasing the resources needed. Improved durability can also reduce the environmental costs of damaged equipment — like rubber or plastic shed as a piece of equipment breaks down. Simple switches, for example — like adopting tires that provide better longevity and higher ROI in rock-strewn environments — can cut down on equipment costs over time while also reducing how much rubber and plastic a mining operation outputs. Kafka has been following these practices for years.

4. REHABILITATING MINING SITES
Many modern mining techniques cause significant disruption to the environment — like stripping the topsoil layer necessary for plant growth and raising soil and water acidity, making the area inhospitable to new vegetation and leaving it prone to soil erosion. Worse, this erosion can often continue for years after a mining company has packed up and moved out. As a result, many former mine sites are left unproductive, unusable by landowners and, in some cases, almost entirely inhospitable to plant and animal life. However, this damage

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isn't guaranteed to be permanent. Companies can use many land rehabilitation techniques to make mined land productive again or speed up the land's natural recovery process. For example, it's possible to use biosolids to replenish depleted topsoil. Soil with biosolids, if seeded and watered, can produce vegetation capable of preventing further soil erosion within as few as 12 weeks. Combined with other rehabilitative techniques — like the use of waste rocks to fill in excavated areas — it's possible to significantly reduce the disruption caused by mining. Kafka has been participating in the Wisconsin DNR Restoration process and each site is permitted and boned to be restored in the future back to permitted use.

5. IMPROVING MINING SUSTAINABILITY

Despite recent strides and new technology, the mining industry remains unsustainable in many areas. Fortunately, there are a variety of technologies and techniques — both in-use and in development — that the sector can use to reduce its environmental impact. Advanced land rehabilitation techniques, coupled with low-impact mining methods and reuse of mine waste, can cut back on the impact that mining operations have on their immediate environment. companies can also use new equipment powered by more efficient engines to reduce their carbon footprint and become more eco-friendly. Not all of these technologies are economical yet. However, the mining industry as a whole does seem to be moving in the direction of sustainability. Over the next few years, these technologies should become more practical. As a result, it may be easier for companies to make themselves more eco-friendly. Kafka Granite is committed to these thought and practices as we move into the future.

Sincerely,

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