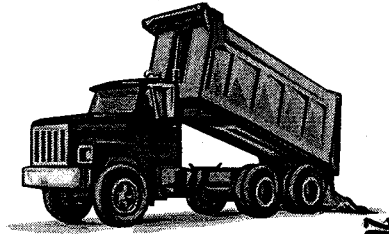
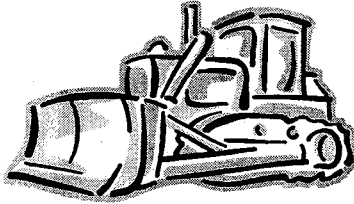


# J.D. DIVERSIFIED SERVICES INC.

3463 BEAVER STREET  
SPRINGBORO, PA 16435 814-587-2501

# 2864



February 22, 2012

RE: Proposed Increase in Mining permits

To Whom It May Concern;

In 2008 I bought a piece of property adjoining a piece that I had been mining for several years. The cost of the new property was nearly **\$500,000**. I went through the extensive process of getting a small mining permit, and purchased an additional **\$250,000** in equipment to be able to get the material state approved. That included scales, screens, lab equipment, a lab tech, weigh master to name a few of the items. We then got the material approved and put on the Bulletin 14. We were then informed that "just because you have State approved material doesn't mean you can sell to the State". So we spent additional time and money to get on E-Procurement, and Costar so we could even have the ability to bid on projects. Then, we had to apply for a large mining permit so that we could mine over 5 acres. The cost of that project was over **\$56,000** just for the engineers. That does not include the cost of the actual permit or the bond which was yet another **\$80,000**. We wanted to bond the entire area, however, that cost would have been in excess of over **\$300,000**. If you are keeping track, that is over **\$886,000** just for the *ability* to sell gravel. And that doesn't include the hidden costs of time devoted to compliance rather than actual surface mining.

Last year, in order to keep up with the rising costs of the rules and regulations, including now needing to bond the roads, that is another **\$15,000**. Finances dictated that we sell 8 of our tri-axle trucks and therefore lay off 8 truck drivers, and a full time mechanic. So due to the rising cost again of the rules and regulations, we have had to let 9 employees go, let me repeat 9 employees, employees who are now unemployed thanks to all of the rules and regulations, but mostly the cost of compliance.

Now a proposal is being considered to raise the cost of the mining permits to over **\$20,000!** Elected officials seem to think that small business has endless pockets of money which they feel entitles them to dip into them time and time again. I would appreciate if you took a look at this from a personal view. Let's assume that your current electric bill for your household is \$200 a month, and the electric company is proposing an increase to **\$2,000** a month- surely you see what a negative impact that would have on your personal

You can always reach us on our cell phone at:

JOHN 814-282-5319  
DAVE 814-282-6481  
johnsoltesz@velocity.net

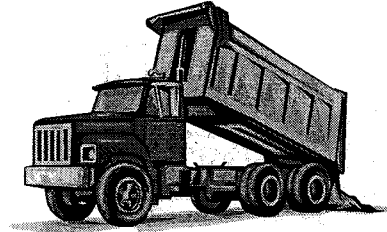
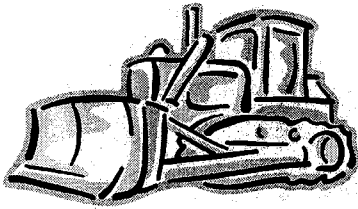
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# **J.D. DIVERSIFIED SERVICES INC.**

**3463 BEAVER STREET**

**SPRINGBORO, PA 16435 814-587-2501**



finances! Yet you seem to think that is acceptable to impose that same increase on the small business.

I also understand that many people that come up with these compliance issues are working for the State are not elected officials, and the little guy has no recourse other than to hopefully elect the less corrupt of the choices at the polls and hope that they understand and care. Meanwhile, we are out there working 12-14 hours a day, 7 days a week, living in a mobile home rather than some nice house, just so we can afford to pay these totally unreasonable costs.

It used to be the American dream to start a business, work hard, be honest and you will succeed. Now the dream is get a job with the State, get a great paycheck, with wonderful benefits, create more rules and regulations, increase the costs, make it impossible and to complex to comply, create job security for the State employees, so much so that survival for the small business is impossible. No wonder companies are moving out of the State and country!

If this proposed increase of the cost of the mining permits is approved, the only recourse we would have is to layoff the rest of the employees, which is down from 15 to 6, let the bank foreclose on the property, and go on Welfare.

We respectfully request that you review the impact that this legislation would have on small business and do not pass this rate increase.

Sincerely,

John Soltesz, President

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