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Thomas Callaghan  
Director, Bureau of Mining Programs  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 8461  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8461

February 14, 2012

Dear Mr. Callaghan,

I and my affiliates are extremely troubled by the **pending fee schedule for non coal permits and services**. Not only will this impact my business, but all area businesses we support. I don't like to throw the **Stifling Economy** card, but really?: During this time, how can you possibly allocate such an increase in fees?

We are already paying extremely high fuel prices that have augmented beyond recovering. With this and all the other increases in our expense budget, every corner of our market is **WAY DOWN!** NEW HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, TOWNSHIP ROAD BUDGETS, STATE AND GOVERNMENT PROJECTS are down and because of this, our revenue is almost half of what it was just three years go. Now you want to put a substantial burden on top of all of that!

The fees you are considering implementing do not justify the actual scenario. Large Mines are not all cookie cutter same. The fees should not be cookie cut. There is a giant difference from a pit that produces hundreds of thousands of tons per year to a pit that produces twenty to thirty thousand tons per year. Cash flow for a small producer doesn't even compare to the large entities funds. **Jane's Fish & Chip Eatery doesn't equate to RED LOBSTER, INC!** Are you aware of the DEP Mining Program where their Bonding permit fees have been tripled and also an MPDES Permit with additional fees has been implemented as well. We feel that on top of all these fees, the additional fees you are considering will drain us.

It is well known that all Government Department's Budgets have been reduced. Instead of extending your reductions to the entrepreneurs that **literally support your income**, try tightening your own belts this time. Our belts are on their last notch!

Thank you for reading our concerns. Possibly with cooperation from your department, we can get through this tough time without scalping us to any further extent.

Sincerely,



Dan McDonald  
Small Business Owner  
McDonald Sand & Gravel