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## Senate of Pennsylvania

February 14, 2019

The Honorable Patrick McDonnell  
Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
400 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Rockhill Quarry

Dear Secretary McDonnell,

I have received a copy of a letter addressed to you from Robert W. Gundlach, counsel for Hanson Aggregates Pennsylvania, LLC and R.E. Pierson Materials Corporation, dated January 30, 2019. Although as a member of the State Senate I serve in a co-equal branch of our state government, I am writing in response to that letter, because I value our office's working relationship with the Department on this matter and others and, as a consequence, believe that Mr. Gundlach's claims should not be left unanswered lest silence be treated as assent.

In my years in public service and private law practice, it has been my observation that, at times, a lawyer's zeal in advocating for his or her client's interests can lead to a troubling disregard for the facts. Such appears to be the case here.

I will address Mr. Gundlach's points in order and with appropriate brevity.

**1. Credibility of Documents.** I have questioned the credibility of the information that allegedly establishes continuous operations at the Quarry since the 1980s. That information is based on reporting of the Quarry owner/operator. My understanding is that the Department shares my concerns, which is why it is undertaking an internal investigation on this issue.

**2. The Relationship between DEP and the Quarry.** Mr. Gundlach's statements on this point are, simply stated, false. If you care to, you can watch the public meeting in question by going to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCmrt6yPXdw&feature=youtu.be>.

**3. Retention Basins.** I have made no demands regarding an impervious liner. However, I believe that the Department should consider requiring the operator to install them in each basin to better prevent groundwater contamination. Please treat this letter as a request that it be made to do so.

The Honorable Patrick McDonnell

February 12, 2019

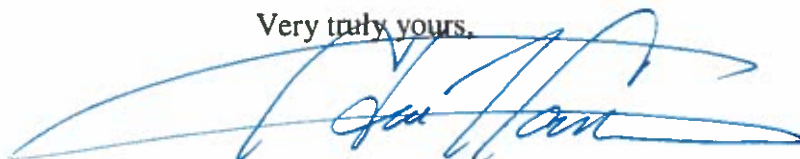
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4. **Asbestos Abatement.** It was the Department that stated at our January meeting that it would require misting machines and the referenced air monitoring. I have no idea what Mr. Gundlach is referring to when he writes about fresh rock.

5. **Asphalt Plant Operations.** My chief of staff did not describe the permit as preliminary. As to the remainder of Mr. Gundlach's statements, we disagree with his understanding of the regulatory process.

Finally, in the concluding paragraphs of his letter, Mr. Gundlach repeats the false claim that I have alleged improprieties on the part of the Department or that it has a "cozy relationship" with the owner and operator of the Quarry. What I have said – and will repeat here – is that I expect the Department to require that Mr. Gundlach's clients comply with the letter of the law. Residents, for whom I will continue to advocate, are entitled to no less.

Very truly yours,



Steven J. Santarsiero  
PA Senator, District 10

CC: Richard E. Pierson, President, R.E. Pierson Materials Corp.  
Curt Mitchell, R.E. Pierson Materials Corp.  
The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Craig T. Staats, Pennsylvania House of Representatives