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Press Release

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NEW PHOENIX CENTER STUDY QUANTIFIES SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE AGGREGATES INDUSTRY ON U.S. ECONOMY

Updated analysis finds U.S. aggregates industry supports over 728,000 jobs and generates \$171 billion in national sales

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The natural aggregates industry – including crushed stone, sand, and gravel – forms the literal foundation of America’s infrastructure and contributes significantly to the nation’s economic wellbeing. In a new comprehensive industry scorecard released today entitled *The Economic Impact of the Natural Aggregates Industry: A National, State, and County Analysis*, the Phoenix Center updates its earlier economic impact study with current data showing the aggregates industry’s substantial contributions to jobs, earnings, and sales across the U.S. economy.

The Phoenix Center’s updated analysis finds that the U.S. aggregates industry generates nearly \$40 billion in annual sales and employs over 104,000 mostly skilled workers. More importantly, the industry’s economic impact extends far beyond its direct operations. Through supply chain effects and increased household spending, the U.S. aggregates industry supports a total of 728,744 jobs across diverse occupations, \$54.8 billion in national earnings, and \$170.7 billion in national sales.

“The U.S. aggregates industry is a critical but often overlooked contributor to America’s economic strength,” says study co-author and Phoenix Center Chief Economist Dr. George S. Ford. “Each job in the aggregates industry supports an additional 5.95 jobs throughout the American economy. These are high-quality jobs with average earnings approximately 20% above the national average.”

The study’s updated analysis extends to state and county levels, revealing that while the economic multipliers vary by geography, the aggregates industry makes significant contributions in all regions. The study notes that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 – which included approximately \$350 billion for highways, streets, and bridges – is expected to further stimulate growth in the aggregates industry, bringing additional economic benefits across many sectors of the U.S. economy.

“Our analysis likely understates the total economic impact, perhaps by as much as a factor of two, as it doesn’t fully account for the necessary transportation of materials to use sites,” adds Phoenix Center President Lawrence J. Spiwak. “When you consider both the direct economic contributions and the repurposing of quarries for commercial and recreational purposes after

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operations cease, the U.S. aggregates industry delivers substantial and sustained economic benefits to communities nationwide.”

A full copy of *The Economic Impact of the Natural Aggregates Industry: A National, State, and County Analysis*, may be downloaded free from the Phoenix Center’s web page at: <https://www.phoenix-center.org/scorecards/AggregatesIndustry2025ScorecardFinal.pdf>.

The Phoenix Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that studies broad public-policy issues related to governance, social and economic conditions, with a particular emphasis on the law and economics of the digital age.