

TESTIMONY

Date: March 6, 2013

Before: The Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs

By: Steven Johnson
Production Manager, Hunt-Martin Materials

Regarding: SB 227 – Enacting the Kansas Explosives Act

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Steven Johnson, District Production Manager for Hunt-Martin Materials, a joint venture between Hunt Midwest Mining and Martin Marietta Materials, located at 7381 W. 133rd Street, Overland Park, KS. Hunt-Martin Materials operates both surface and underground aggregate mining operations in the greater Kansas City area. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today in opposition to SB 227.

As an operator of active mining operations and a large user of explosives we are a highly regulated industry. With respect to explosives alone we currently are regulated by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, and both state and local Fire Marshall's offices and as such no stranger to rules and regulations. We operate in a responsible well established manner and have set our blasting practices with regard to current rules and regulations, industry standards, nationwide company policy, and legal precedent. We are recognized as a leader in our industry and are engaged members of the communities we serve, and as such do not feel that additional regulation is necessary.

The current set of rules and regulations that govern the use of explosives have been developed over time and with regard to requirements of all groups involved. The open nature of this bill allows for regulations to be adopted without proper debate and consideration being given to the potential consequences. Some potential consequences include confusion between State and Federal compliance requirements, unnecessary additional regulatory cost, implementation of unreasonable or unrealistic blasting procedures, and lack of a defined appeal process to name a few.

In summary the use of explosives is a highly technical and critical component of the mining process. We feel that there are sufficient rules and regulations currently in place to ensure the safe and proper use of these materials. This proposed regulation provides no additional benefit to the Industry, or the community, and only provides for duplication and additional cost to both the State and the Industry when neither can afford the extra burden.

Thank you for your time and I would be glad to respond to any questions you may have.

Steven Johnson
Production Manager
Hunt-Martin Materials
7381 W. 133rd Street, Suite 401
Overland Park, KS 66213