

# British Aggregates Association

10 Brookfields  
Calver, Hope Valley  
Derbyshire S32 3XB

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2006

**Rt Hon John Gummer MP**  
**Chair of the Quality of Life Policy Group**  
**House of Commons**  
**London**  
**SW1A 0AA**

Tel/Fax: 01433 639 879  
Mobile: 07711 492 378

phuxtable@british-aggregates.com  
www.british-aggregates.co.uk

*Dear Mr Gummer*

We would like to acknowledge and applaud your excellent address to us at the CBI Minerals Conference earlier this month. I found it most refreshing and hope that we will get a transcript of it in due course.

Your description of the ubiquitous aggregates tax was absolutely spot-on - and it was (and is) an absolute nonsense looking to assuage the green lobbyists and not looking to meet environmental ends. As you rightly observe the landfill tax had already achieved the recycle of secondary materials and demolition waste long before the aggregates tax came into being. BAA commissioned research into this and I enclose a copy.

Our Association was essentially formed in late 1999 by the SME private sector to fight the tax proposals as the quarry industry majors were making a poor job of defending the industry. We have subsequently challenged the legality of the tax and continue to challenge the decision on state-aid grounds through the European Courts. We have subsequently become a strong voice in the industry and respected with the decision makers in London and Brussels.

We appreciated the excellent efforts by your colleague Oliver Letwin in trying to defeat the proposals on the tax prior to introduction and his continued support subsequently. Stephen O'Brien has suggested that we make an input on this and other issues ahead of your policy review which we understand will be completed mid-2007. We would specifically be hoping that repeal of the aggregates levy would continue to be on your agenda and in the manifesto if re-elected - and for the reasons you made so well on Monday 6<sup>th</sup>.

Your comments on minimising our industry's carbon footprint were also most thought-provoking and of course in line with the smaller operator's local quarry for local needs and short haulage distances.

*Regards*

*[Signature]*

