



April 15, 2015

The Honorable Ryan Smith
Chairman, Finance Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Amendment to H.B. 64 – Slag

Dear Chairman Smith:

The Ohio Steel Council writes to convey strong support for the proposed Revised Statute ORC 6111.01 (C) to include the language: “Industrial waste” does not include slag regardless of whether it is placed on the ground, placed below grade, or used in products that come into contact with the ground or are placed below grade. Slag is currently exempt from the definition of solid waste in Ohio. However, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is attempting to regulate slag under Ohio’s Clean Water Act (ORC 6111). The proposed amendment (attached) would effectively exempt slag from both solid waste and industrial waste definitions, thus removing the product from the two laws the Ohio EPA uses for beneficial use regulation.

By way of background, iron and steel slag products are utilized as manufactured or engineered aggregate products that compete, and may exceed natural aggregates in quality and typically are available at lower cost options. Almost 20 million tons of iron and steel slag are sold annually and the U.S. imports more than one million tons of iron and steel slag every year. Environmental applications for iron and steel slag are currently regulated through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (DOA).

The production of slag from Ohio’s steel industry has a direct impact on the state’s economy. Our member companies pay more than \$600 million in taxes to Ohio and its local communities, and \$700 million in federal taxes. Revenue from those taxes helps maintain and strengthen local, state and federal programs. Allowing the OH EPA to regulate slag as an industrial waste would place Ohio’s steel industry manufacturers at a large and costly disadvantage to neighboring states and have a deleterious effect on Ohio’s economy.

On behalf of the Ohio Steel Council and the thousands of Ohioans our members employ, we respectfully ask for your consideration to support the amendment revising the definition of industrial waste to exclude slag. We appreciate your time and please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to further discuss.

Sincerely,



Brenda Schulz
Nucor Marion, Inc.
Chair, Ohio Steel Council



Emily Elizer
U.S. Steel Corporation
Government Affairs Chair, Ohio Steel
Council

Comprised of steel producers, processors and suppliers, the Ohio Steel Council serves as the voice of the steel industry in Ohio. Additional information about the Ohio Steel Council is available at www.ohiosteelcouncil.org. Ohio Steel Council members include: AK Steel Corporation, AMG Vanadium, Inc., ArcelorMittal, Charter Steel, Cliffs Natural Resources, Inc., Eramet Marietta, Inc., Nucor Steel Marion, Inc., Stein, Inc., The Timken Company, Tata Steel, Tube City IMS, United States Steel Corporation and Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway.