

# The Foundation for Aggregate Studies

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TORONTO, Ont. In a detailed presentation to the Standing Resources Development Committee of the Ontario Legislature, the Foundation for Aggregate Studies (FAS) strongly criticized the proposed Aggregates Act as being "a typical piece of permissive legislation which fails to face the issues squarely, and contains no firm principles".

Mr. Arlin Hackman said today that the new Bill 127, does not address the most pressing issues facing the people of Ontario regarding the mining of pits and quarries. "FAS is completely opposed to the intention of the government in assuming the power to force local governments to designate aggregate extraction areas in their Official Plans". He said that if this piece of legislation is passed, it will be unparalleled, but consistent with the Ministry's preoccupation with insuring the industry unrestricted access to aggregate resources.

"The people in this Province are concerned with the social disruption, environmental damage, dust, noise, truck traffic and safety hazards posed by pit and quarry operations. We were hopeful that the new Act would address all of these concerns, but instead, two-thirds of the Bill is taken up with procedures for applying for new licences. It contains no environmental safeguards and does little to insure adequate rehabilitation. After years

of research the Ministry of Natural Resources has presented the public with a "motherhood" Bill, which does little to address the real problems."

He stated that FAS and its 25,000 constituents would not support the Bill unless it was substantially reworked to address the concerns of Ontarions.