

From: [Omar Chahin](#)
To: [DIR_RS](#)
Subject: Engineered Stone Advisory - Public Comment.
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 9:30:00 AM
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Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Omar Chahin, and I am the owner of GMD Surfaces, a fabrication shop in Mokena, Illinois. While my business operates outside California, I am concerned about the proposed rule restricting engineered stone containing more than 1% silica.

I strongly support efforts to protect workers' health and safety. However, I believe that a ban on quartz is not the most effective solution and could unintentionally harm responsible businesses that have invested significantly in equipment, training, and safety measures to protect their employees.

The issue is not quartz itself, but exposure to harmful dust. Replacing one material with another may simply substitute one type of dust hazard for another without addressing the underlying problem. In many industries, risks are managed through regulation, training, and safety controls rather than outright bans. For example, we do not prohibit automobiles because of traffic accidents; instead, we implement safety measures such as traffic signals, pedestrian bridges, and enforcement programs to reduce risk.

Similarly, the fabrication industry already has proven methods to control silica exposure, including wet-cutting processes, dust collection systems, water filtration technology, air monitoring, and rigorous housekeeping practices. When properly implemented and enforced, these measures can effectively protect workers.

Rather than banning engineered stone, I encourage regulators to focus on comprehensive industry standards and enforcement, including:

1. Robust inspection and auditing programs.
2. Mandatory training for shop owners and employees on dust hazards and exposure-control methods.
3. A complete prohibition on dry cutting and dry fabrication practices.
4. Periodic license renewal requirements tied to safety and air-quality audits.
5. Mandatory workers' compensation coverage for all fabrication-related businesses.

I believe that worker safety can be achieved without banning quartz. By addressing the root cause, dust exposure, rather than a specific material, we can better protect workers while allowing compliant businesses to continue operating responsibly.

Thank you,

Best regards,



National Fabricator of the Year Award Nominee 2024

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