Death-Taxes-Regs
By: Megan Dennis

Our industries are regulated at the federal, state and local levels in the great state of Pennsylvania – let's break down what we as law abiding, taxpaying citizens can control and can't control when it comes to government puppeteering.

What is happening on the federal level (administration specific)

We are living in the era of the greatest deregulation action in US History following the first day of Trump 2 Executive Order "Unleashing American Energy" along with EPA's "Powering the Great American Comeback" and yet, regulations are still hindering our operations in the Keystone State.

Deregulation is a great start but modernization and the use of intelligence in our permitting systems should be at the forefront of the federal government. PACA has signed on to the NSSGA letter urging Congress to pass legislation that will do just that, regulate the regulators and help industries get to work growing our economy and putting food on the table for our families. We have also worked to strengthen our partnerships here in the state and throughout the country. Recently, PACA has connected with the American Exploration & Mining Association (AEMA) to help tailor our strategy to influence legislative and regulatory issues specifically related to mining for our members. As we know – if it can't be grown, it must be mined.

On the state level what are we doing to influence our regulations (what we CAN control)

States play a significant role in regulation implementation, enforcement, and shaping of outcomes. Through cooperative federalism, the promotion of flexibility and use of local knowledge and expertise, can help shape our state regs – if our regulators are willing to work together with industry. We have seen a shift with the Shapiro Administration to push "getting stuff done" – which would include issuing permits. While DEP promotional materials show a wonderful turnaround on permit application approvals, there is a long road ahead for the commonwealth and permitting. Where change can be influenced is through direct advocacy efforts and policy input. The relationships PACA has in Harrisburg are strong and our roundtables with DEP have proven very useful. We have the tools and personnel to

make a change in our state regulatory environment and it’s a full court press until it happens.