Engineered stone, also known as quartz or composite stone, has become a popular material for kitchen and bathroom countertops. However, concerns have been raised about the safety of engineered stone due to the presence of silica dust during its manufacturing process. In this submission, I will argue that banning engineered stone does not make sense, and that the product can be manufactured safely if the correct safety protocols are followed. Additionally, banning the product would be discriminatory towards other high silica products.

Firstly, engineered stone has many benefits that make it a desirable material for use in homes and commercial properties. It is durable, easy to clean, and resistant to scratches, stains, and heat. Additionally, it can be made to look like natural stone at a lower cost, making it an affordable option for those who want the look of stone without the high price tag.

Furthermore, engineered stone can be manufactured safely if the correct safety protocols are followed. Silica dust is a potential hazard during the manufacturing process, but there are many measures that can be taken to minimize exposure to workers. For example, manufacturers can use wet cutting to reduce the amount of dust that is released into the air and adequate ventilation to keep a steady volume of fresh clean air within the factory enviroment. This is in fact already happening in many main of the medium to large manufacturers.

Moreover, many countries have established regulations and guidelines to ensure the safe manufacturing of engineered stone. For example, in the United States, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has established regulations to protect workers from exposure to silica dust. In Australia, the National Dust Disease Taskforce has also established guidelines for safe handling and manufacturing of engineered stone.

Finally, banning engineered stone would be discriminatory towards other high silica products. Silica is a naturally occurring mineral that can be found in many other materials, including natural stone, sand, and concrete. Therefore, workers in other industries may still be exposed to silica dust, even if engineered stone is banned. Banning one product while allowing others to continue to be manufactured and used would be unfair and discriminatory. Instead of banning, it would be more logical to enforce that Engineered stone has max a max Silica content which is lower than the current high level percentages of Silica.

In conclusion, banning engineered stone does not make sense, as it is a valuable material with many benefits for consumers. The product can be manufactured safely if the correct safety protocols are followed, and many countries have established regulations and guidelines to ensure worker safety. Additionally, banning the product would be discriminatory towards other high silica products. Rather than banning engineered stone, we should focus on implementing and enforcing safety measures and lowering the Silica percentage to protect workers from exposure to silica dust in all industries.