

August 28, 2017

Dear Joe,

Most Americans agree—65 percent to be exact—that we need to streamline the mine permitting process for the sake of our infrastructure, according to a recent [Morning Consult poll](#). And, moreover, the vast majority (86 percent) of these voters believe that the current state of our infrastructure is cause for concern.

They are correct. As I mentioned [last month](#), the American Society of Civil Engineers recently revealed that U.S. infrastructure is near failure, putting our economy at risk. Fortunately, the administration has acknowledged that “the painfully slow, costly and time-consuming process for getting permits and approvals” is a leading cause for our development woes. **In fact, did you know that the current mine permitting process has grown increasingly onerous and redundant, creating protracted delays that can now take up to 10 years?**

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Earlier last week, the president signed an [Executive Order](#) to refine our environmental review and permitting process for infrastructure. But in order for this infrastructure revitalization to succeed, we need timely access to the minerals that make it all possible. For example, minerals like copper, molybdenum, zinc, iron ore and kyanite are the foundation of U.S. infrastructure projects—from the development of railways and subway lines to the building of powerlines and phone lines.



railways



wire insulation



high transmission powerlines



phone lines

Requiring greater accountability and discipline in our permitting process is a step in the right direction. However, there are still policies that threaten American jobs and our nation’s rebuilding initiatives. This includes a costly [EPA rule](#) that will kill American jobs and hurt our economy by duplicating existing mining financial assurance regulations—adding burdensome costs that will deter companies from investing in the U.S.

That is why it is time we [take action](#) to let our policymakers know that we need to get serious about our infrastructure revitalization.

Thank you,

Hal Quinn
NMA President and CEO

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In his newest op-ed, [Reshoring Initiative](#) Founder Harry Moser explains why President Trump’s Executive Order is good for manufacturing and how it will strengthen our supply chains.

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