



January 23, 2017

Joe —

At the beginning of January, millions of acres of federal land were put off limits to mining through national monument designations. Federal lands withdrawals are government actions that must be closely scrutinized, no matter which political party is making the decisions.

No withdrawals of mineral-rich land should take place without a clear understanding of the important role that minerals play in supporting a vibrant domestic economy, our national security and our manufacturing sector. See our newest [infographic](#) to learn more about the issue and how federal lands withdrawals can create unintentional ramifications for our economy and hamper

DID YOU KNOW?

2016 was the safest year for American mining



In 2016, U.S. miners celebrated the safest year on record for mining. Read about it [here](#).

technological innovation.



It is estimated that \$6.2 trillion worth of mineral resources remain locked underground in the U.S. As it stands, half of U.S. mineral-rich land is either off-limits or restricted for mineral development. American industry depends on reliable access to domestic minerals and metals, and blocking access to these valuable resource hurts the economy and job creation.

While proposed federal lands withdrawals threaten mining, there is progress being made on reforming the mine permitting process. "[The National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2017](#)," introduced last week in the House and Senate, addresses the deficiencies of our outdated and underperforming permitting system by providing for efficient, timely and thorough permit reviews and incorporating best practices for coordination between state and federal agencies. By improving the permitting process, we can better meet the ever-increasing demand for mineral resources domestically.

NMA Applauds Legislation to Streamline Permitting Process



The proposed bill stands to boost job creation and significantly contribute to the economy. See our [full statement here](#).

Please join us in strengthening American mining by encouraging your member to support the advancement of the “National Strategic and Critical Mineral Production Act of 2017.” We also urge your member to oppose unreasonable withdrawals of mineral-rich federal lands.

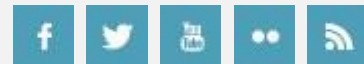
Thank you,

Hal Quinn

NMA President and CEO



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