

Minerals Make Life is a National Mining Association initiative.



February 14, 2013

Dear Joe,

How serious is the need for critical minerals? New ventures have sprung up in recent months that propose [mining asteroids](#) or the [ocean floor](#) to try and increase America's access to minerals.

It is evident [mineral scarcity](#) is a salient issue we must address. Influential leaders in the high-tech and advanced energy sectors have flagged minerals and metals scarcity as a chief concern in 2013. Congress has demanded that the Pentagon put forward a plan for how to ensure it has the minerals needed to keep our troops safe and military strong.

But trust me when I say there's no need to go to such lengths -- mining asteroids or tapping the depths of the sea -- for these natural resources. The reality is that the U.S. soil is home to \$6.2 trillion worth of key mineral resources -- and getting them here at home helps to create good jobs and economic growth.

Sadly those types of extraterrestrial ventures have been born out of realities of doing business here on earth. What's crippling our access to our myriad of minerals is a drastically outdated and duplicative permitting process, which has in turn increased U.S. dependence on import minerals and driven away much needed investment. Australia, Chile and Canada have all updated their permitting process -- now it's time for us to get it done.

When it comes to minerals mining, we just need to reach consensus on a rational permitting process that helps us realize our full potential and take advantage of the many opportunities we have right here at home. That's what I'm focused on.

Thank you for your continued support in this and other key efforts. As always, let me know if I can help.

Best,

Hal Quinn
President and CEO
National Mining Association

To learn more about minerals and what they mean to America, visit mineralsmakelife.org.

ABOUT NMA



The National Mining Association (NMA) is the voice of American mining in Washington, D.C. NMA is the only national trade organization that represents the interests of mining before Congress, the administration, federal agencies, the judiciary and the media.