



March 30, 2017

Dear Joe,

Infrastructure is increasingly becoming a hot topic for both U.S. voters and policymakers. According to a recent [poll conducted by Morning Consult](#) on behalf of the National Mining Association, voters overwhelmingly support using domestically sourced minerals for infrastructure and manufacturing projects. Unfortunately, the U.S. mine permitting process is creating unnecessary hurdles for timely access to U.S. minerals. And perhaps even more troubling, this seven to 10-year process is leading to less investment in our industry.

The S&P Global Market Intelligence's [recent report](#) shows that U.S. mineral exploration is declining with a more than 30 percent

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Mining Companies Testify Before House Natural Resources Subcommittee



On March 21, Rio Tinto Managing Director Dr. Nigel Steward provided testimony during the House Natural Resources Subcommittee's hearing on *The Importance of Domestically Sourced Raw Materials for Infrastructure Projects*. [Watch here](#).

exploration budget decrease from 2015-16. That reality, paired with mining policies that put U.S. minerals mining at a competitive disadvantage, has resulted in an increase of U.S. mineral import reliance. This month, [hearings](#) in the House and Senate have focused on this increased mineral dependence and opportunities to improve the U.S. supply chain.

The findings in the S&P report, in addition to the recent [2017 USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries](#), are troubling. The U.S. is a top [copper](#) producer—a vital metal for infrastructure projects. Yet the recent Mineral Commodity Summaries notes that the U.S. imports 36 percent of its refined copper. Again, the cumbersome mine permitting process is largely to blame.

Fortunately, Rep. Mark Amodei (R-Nev.) and Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) introduced [legislation](#) in the House and Senate that can modernize the mine permitting process. If passed, this legislation will increase investment in U.S. mines by establishing policies that allow for more competitive mine permitting timelines. Additionally, this will provide U.S. industries with better access to the nation's abundant homegrown mineral resources.

It's time we speak out in support of the mining community and in favor of strengthening our nation's infrastructure. Please join us in spreading the word. Tell

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### New Polling Results Show Support for U.S. Minerals



In a recent poll conducted by *Morning Consult*, 71 percent of voters support using U.S. minerals for infrastructure and manufacturing projects. Learn more about these polling results [here](#).

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your representatives to take action to support U.S. infrastructure [here](#).

Thank you,

Hal Quinn  
NMA President and CEO

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