

## U.S. Mining Permitting Process

America's outdated, redundant mining permitting process is the primary reason investors avoid U.S. minerals mining. They instead fund projects and workforces in countries with efficient permitting policies, and the United States loses out on needed jobs and economic growth.

### Mining Permitting Delays

- In the United States, it typically takes between seven and 10 years to secure mining permits from the government<sup>i</sup>.
- Our nation is tied with Papua New Guinea<sup>i</sup>—a country with an economy 0.01 percent our size—for having the most mining permitting delays of 25 top mining countries.
- Permitting delays have caused the share of global metals mining investment dollars attracted by the United States to dramatically decline over the past 20 years—falling from 21 percent in 1993 to roughly 8 percent today.



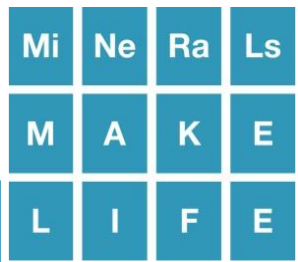
### International Permitting Strategies

- This year, Australia and Canada were ranked the best places to invest in minerals mining<sup>i</sup>. Both countries have environmental laws for mining that are similar to U.S. regulations<sup>ii</sup>, but have permitting timelines of approximately two years—compared to seven to 10 years in the United States.
- In recent years, countries with more efficient permitting strategies, including Australia and Canada, attracted 5 to 9 percent more worldwide minerals exploration dollars.



### A Better Solution

**Supporting legislation that would reduce permitting delays while maintaining strict environmental safeguards will attract investors in U.S. mining and see our nation benefit from the jobs, economic growth and security minerals can provide.**



#### Sources

<sup>i</sup> 2012 Ranking Of Countries for Mining Investment Where "Not to Invest"; Behre Dolbear Group Inc.

<sup>ii</sup> "Permits Drag on U.S. Mining Projects," Robert Guy Matthews, The Wall Street Journal; Feb. 8, 2010