

Minerals Make Life is a National Mining Association initiative.



September 19, 2013

Dear Kara,

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 761, The National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013, a bipartisan bill that addresses the shortcomings of the nation's **outdated permitting system for minerals mining**, while preserving the environmental protections provided by current laws and regulations. By requiring coordination between federal and state agencies, H.R. 761 facilitates efficient, timely and thorough permit reviews needed to sustain a secure and reliable domestic mineral supply chain. Now it is up to the Senate to take advantage of this opportunity to **stimulate job growth, spur economic activity, revive domestic manufacturing and assuage some of our security concerns.**

Our nation has a vast mineral supply worth \$6.2 trillion - the world's leading mineral reserves base - but permitting delays that can last a decade or longer are hindering the nation's ability to access these resources. **The United States is consistently ranked globally as the country with the least efficient permitting system**, with regulatory roadblocks stalling investment in new mining projects.

Without a stable supply of minerals, the United States is becoming increasingly reliant on other countries for the minerals essential to domestic industries and national security. In fact, **we are currently 100 percent dependent on foreign imports for 18 different minerals** and more than 50 percent import-dependent for an additional 43 mineral commodities.

We need the sound policy measures found in H.R. 761 to reverse a 30-year trend of increasing import reliance for materials available right here at home. Having a fair and timely permitting process in place is crucial to **job creation, innovation, American manufacturing and a range of minerals-reliant industries.**

I applaud the House of Representatives for passing this legislation and I urge the Senate follow their lead and to **vote in favor of economic prosperity** and national security. To stay up to date on the legislation's progress, visit our **Minerals Make Life blog.**

Best regards,  
Hal Quinn

To learn more about minerals and what they mean to America, visit [mineralsmakelife.org](http://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.