

MINERALS

MAKE

LIFE



April 12, 2011

Dear Joe,

The unique capabilities of strategic minerals—including, [copper](#), [lead](#), [titanium](#), [beryllium](#), [molybdenum](#), [zinc](#) and [rare earths](#)—make them vital components in defense technologies such as fighter jets, unmanned aerial vehicles, night vision goggles and satellite surveillance.

As defense contractors and engineers develop game-changing technologies to support military strategies, demand for minerals will increase.

Steady access to minerals is paramount to protecting our nation. Yet, rather than taking full advantage of the \$6.2 trillion worth of key minerals within our borders, the United States imports \$5.2 billion worth of mineral materials and is 100 percent dependent on imports for 19 different minerals.

Reliance on imports—and domestic production that lags increased demand for minerals—makes the United States more vulnerable to supply disruptions. To ensure our military has adequate access to minerals and is prepared to respond at a moment's notice to global threats, we will need a reliable supply chain to meet our minerals defense needs—today and in the future.

Achieving this will require sensible policies that allow us to increase utilization of our domestic resources. To show your support for balanced policies that encourage the development of domestic minerals, please visit [www.mineralsmakelife.org](http://www.mineralsmakelife.org) and sign our [petition](#).

Thank you,

Hal Quinn  
President and CEO  
National Mining Association

### Top 10 issues mining companies face in 2011

Deloitte.



Tracking the trends 2011  
The top 10 issues  
mining companies will  
face in the coming year

Deloitte has produced a list of the top 10 issues mining companies face in 2011. Click [here](#) to learn what they are.

### Minerals Make Security



Each year, the U.S. Department of Defense requires approximately 733,468 tons of minerals used in technologies that keep our country [secure](#).

### 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.