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 and sign our petition.

Thank you,

Hal Quinn
President and CEO
National Mining Association

Minerals Make Life is a National Mining Association initiative.