

MINERALS
MAKE
LIFE



February 27, 2018

Dear Joe,

President Trump recently announced a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure package to improve America's deteriorating highways, bridges and other important structures.

In order to fix our crumbling infrastructure, the U.S. should start with action that costs nothing: improving access to domestically-produced minerals such as copper, molybdenum and iron ore—all of which are essential components to our infrastructure. And there's a solution on the horizon: Rep. Mark Amodei (R-Nev.) and Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) are championing a new bill that could strengthen the future of minerals mining and provide a significant boost to the U.S. economy.

On Feb. 15, the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on the "National Strategic and Critical

DID YOU KNOW?

Op-ed: Rebuilding U.S. infrastructure will require better access to minerals and metals



NMA's President and CEO Hal Quinn discusses the need to reform the duplicative mine permitting process as a necessary first step to revitalizing our infrastructure.

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Minerals Production Act.” Under [the bill](#), projects that provide minerals vital to job creation, energy infrastructure, American economic competitiveness and national security will be considered infrastructure projects, meaning that minerals mine permitting will be among the permitting processes that must be streamlined.

In the U.S., the mine permitting process can take – on average – anywhere from seven to 10 years. But in countries like Canada and Australia, mine permit decisions are usually issued within 18 to 24 months. As Hecla Mining Company’s Doug Stiles [advised](#) the House Natural Resources Subcommittee, “We should not trap minerals projects in a limbo of duplicative, unpredictable and endless review without a decision point.”

The American Society of Civil Engineers recently gave our nation’s infrastructure a D+ on the Annual Infrastructure Report Card. Clearly, we can no longer wait to fix these issues. Our safety and quality of life relies on timely access to our nation’s mineral resources.

That is why we must act **now**.

[Take Action](#)

If this legislation is passed, it would shorten the required time for the completion of the mine permitting review process to no longer than **30 months**—allowing job creating industries to have timely access to the resources they need.

Blog: A Glimpse into the Safety and Sustainability Culture of Modern Mining



Learn how health and safety management systems like NMA’s **CORESafety**© framework establish best practices that are helping to change the way we think about mining.

[Learn More](#)

Congress needs to support this commonsense legislation. The current mine permitting process is not working for our country. Now is the time for change. I hope that you will join us by [calling on your policymakers](#) to pass the “National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act.”

Thank you,

Hal Quinn
NMA President and CEO

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