



November 12, 2018

Dear Joe,

This Veterans Day we recognize the men and women who bravely serve our nation. The minerals mining industry is proud to support our military by providing the raw materials needed for the technologies that keep our troops safe and properly equipped. Access to our domestic resources is essential to ensuring our military has the equipment and tools it requires.

Beryllium, copper and other minerals are critical to the technologies our military relies on. However, due to outdated and duplicative policies, it can take anywhere from seven to 10 years to obtain a mine permit in the United States. This means the Department of Defense is reliant on foreign nations to obtain the minerals it needs for key military equipment.



This reliance on imports puts our military supply chain at risk. In a recent op-ed, retired U.S. Army Brig. Gen. John Adams

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underscored this dangerous position: “From F-22 and F-35 aircraft to guidance and targeting systems, these minerals are essential to most of our advanced weapons systems. That we have allowed to China to dominate their production and processing defies comprehension.”

To learn more about our dependence on mineral imports, read Brigadier General Adams’ full piece [here](#).

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It’s imperative that Congress takes the necessary steps to decrease our growing import reliance on minerals and metals. According to a recent poll, three out of five voters support reforming the mine permitting process to ensure our military has timely access to the U.S. mineral resources necessary for our national security.

We need our leaders to secure our military supply chain and reform the outdated mine permitting process. The strength of our Armed Forces depends on it.

Thank you,

Hal Quinn  
NMA President and CEO



Manufacturing is vital to the health of our nation’s economy. But delays in the mine permitting process are forcing manufacturers to rely on unstable supply chains overseas.

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