



JUNE 30, 2014

Dear Joe,

On the heels of Memorial Day and National Flag Week, and as we approach Independence Day, it's important to remember that summer is more than a time of cookouts and vacations. It's a time to honor those who risk their lives protecting our national freedom. This is particularly true as the United States considers our military options in Iraq.

Recognizing that **minerals** are the raw materials behind the **technologies and equipment that help keep our troops safe**, the United States' ever-growing import dependence for key minerals has proven a major concern for policymakers in recent years.

S.2410, the **National Defense Authorization Act for 2015**, is the latest evidence of growing attention to the problem. Section 1141 calls for a report on the supply of rare earth minerals-which are widely used in the advanced technologies supporting the Department of Defense - to ensure they are extracted, processed and refined from secure sources.

While this is a step in the right direction, policymakers have more work to do to ensure our military has secure access to all the minerals that keep our troops secure - including minerals

DID YOU KNOW?

Just How Important is a Stable Supply of Critical Minerals?



In the most recent installment of "NMA Newsmakers," the National Mining Association's Jamie Caswell interviewed Scott Paul, president of the Alliance for American Manufacturing, about how an unstable supply of critical minerals can jeopardize U.S. defense and national security.

U.S. Manufacturers Need Access to Metals

like [beryllium](#), copper and nickel, which the United States has in abundance, and which are found in jet engines, night-vision goggles, armored vehicles and other [essential defense and aerospace equipment](#).

Last year, the House passed the "Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013," which would streamline the mineral permitting process while upholding strict environmental protections, ensuring a secure domestic mineral supply chain for manufacturers and our military.

Now it's time the Senate takes up similar legislation to address mineral security, allowing the United States to tap into its world-class mineral reserves, reduce its reliance on foreign countries for over half the available supplies of 40 different mineral commodities, and [bolster both our national and economic security](#).

Our [Minerals Make Life blog](#) offers additional resources and information on the importance of minerals to our national security.

Best regards,

Hal Quinn



My article in [National Defense Magazine](#) highlights the importance of raw materials to national security at a time of growing resource nationalism among mineral-rich nations.



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