

Minerals Make Life is a National Mining Association initiative.



December 12, 2012

Dear Joe,

I recently took part in a panel discussion here in Washington, D.C. sponsored by *Foreign Policy* magazine and the U.S. State Department, which focused on exploring emerging trends in natural resources. A quick poll of the audience -- composed of more than 100 influencers in government, international diplomacy, academia and the private sector -- revealed a near consensus that resource nationalism and resource conflict will be a central driver of international tensions during the decade ahead.

Their forecasts are driven by a world in which more than 1.4 billion people still need access to electricity, 1 billion are hungry and 2.4 billion are without sanitation -- a world that will host 27 cities with populations exceeding 10 million people each by 2025. As such, the metals and minerals that build these cities, construct power stations, filter water and enrich crops will be in even greater demand and will increasingly come from countries that are vulnerable to internal conflict and external forces.



Hal Quinn, President and CEO of the National Mining Association, took part in a panel discussion, sponsored by *Foreign Policy* magazine and the U.S. State Department, on Nov. 29 in Washington, D.C. to discuss emerging trends in natural resources.

We might say none of that applies to us. We don't face the day-to-day challenges of abject poverty, nor are we susceptible to exploitation from outside forces. And yet, our dependence on foreign sources for minerals used throughout our economy has steadily grown over the last 30 years -- putting us at the heart of these emerging trends.

There are steps that we, as a nation, can take to improve our access to vital mineral resources in the face of ongoing geopolitical uncertainty. While these issues are top of mind for policymakers, influencers and the general public, now is the time to push for a strong U.S. minerals strategy and a reform of those policies and regulations that hold back our nation's great potential to direct its own destiny -- and NMA plans to continue doing just that in the year ahead.

As 2012 comes to a close, I want to thank you for your continued support in these efforts, and I wish you and your families a happy, healthy holiday season.

Best regards,

Hal Quinn  
President and CEO  
National Mining Association

To learn more about minerals and what they mean to America, visit [mineralsmakelife.org](http://mineralsmakelife.org).

## 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.