



APRIL 16, 2015

Joe—

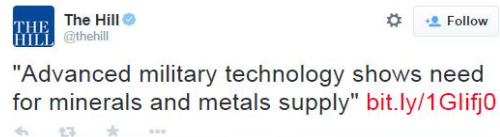
Legislation focused on minerals, the “**American Mineral Security Act of 2015**,” was recently introduced in the U.S. Senate. This bill would modernize the duplicative and inefficient mine **permitting system** in place today—a process that sends jobs overseas and hinders America’s economic momentum and technology development.

As it stands, the process to obtain permits can take seven to 10 years. Minerals policies in Canada and Australia allow companies to complete the process in just two to three years with similarly stringent environmental standards. This clearly puts the U.S. at a competitive disadvantage.

It also forces American manufacturers to import raw materials from foreign sources to make everything from smartphones to fighter jets. Imports of foreign minerals—many of which are found domestically—have doubled over the past 20 years, leading to a whole host of missed opportunities to bolster the manufacturing renaissance and create additional high-paying jobs here at home.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ensuring our military gets the minerals it needs for equipment, when it needs them



The U.S. Department of Defense relies on 750,000 tons of minerals each year. Yet, despite the strategic importance of minerals and metals to our national security, the U.S. ranks behind China, Russia, Chile and South Africa in terms of production. [Read my commentary in The Hill.](#)

“Instead of ignoring this situation as it grows worse, my bill offers a chance to change course,” said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, the bill’s sponsor. “It would improve our mineral security and protect our manufacturers for decades to come.”

This bill would ensure U.S. mines supply minerals and metals to U.S. industries, including American automobile makers, the energy and defense sectors and medical equipment manufacturers, among others.

We need your support for this legislation if we’re going to rally Congress to pass legislation that unlocks the \$6.2 trillion worth of minerals and metals right here in the U.S.

Now is the right time to pass this legislation.



Minerals spur economic recovery and job growth



The **average wage** for U.S. miners is \$72,512 per year, whereas the average wage for all U.S. workers is \$49,700 per year. The mining industry employs more than 1.2 million Americans and is expected to add 11,000-13,000 jobs annually for the next 20 years.

Thank you,

Hal Quinn
NMA President and CEO



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