



APRIL 27, 2015

Joe—

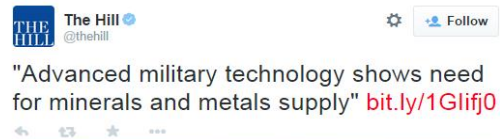
A bill to modernize permitting for minerals' mines, the "**National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2015**," was introduced in the House today. With a **similar bill** introduced in the Senate, this could be our best chance to bring America's inefficient and duplicative mine permitting process into the 21st century.

While few countries can rival our abundance of mineral resources, even fewer have a permitting system as inefficient as that of the United States. Under our **current process**, it can take seven to 10 years to obtain a permit. In Canada and Australia—two countries with similarly stringent environmental standards—minerals policies allow companies to complete the process in just two to three years. Overall, the process discourages investment and jeopardizes the growth of downstream industries, related jobs and technological innovation that all depend on a secure and reliable mineral supply chain.

As a result, our nation's dependence on mineral imports has doubled over the past 20 years, and today, less than half of the mineral needs of U.S. manufacturing are met from domestically mined minerals.

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.](#)

Without compromising our rigorous environmental standards, this bi-partisan legislation carefully addresses the inefficiencies of our underperforming permitting system by incorporating best practices for improving coordination among state and federal agencies, clarifying responsibilities, avoiding duplication, setting timeframes and bringing badly needed accountability to the process.

It is time our government acted with a sense of urgency and supported responsible development of domestically sourced materials. I encourage you to take action and contact your lawmakers by clicking on the image below.



Thank you,

Hal Quinn
NMA President and CEO

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.



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National Mining Association
101 Constitution Avenue NW, Suite 500 East
Washington, D.C. 20001

mineralsmakelife.org