



July 25, 2013

Dear Joe,

Mining has been the target of misguided policy and undue criticism in Washington this month. On July 5, the Bureau of Land Management **withdrew more than 300,000 acres of federal land from mining**, reserving it for "future solar energy development" - even though this land had been designated for multiple concurrent uses.

Four days later, the Obama administration **expressed opposition** to the "National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013," legislation introduced by Rep. Mark Amodei (R-Nev.) that would streamline the mining permitting process on federal lands while maintaining strict environmental review procedures.

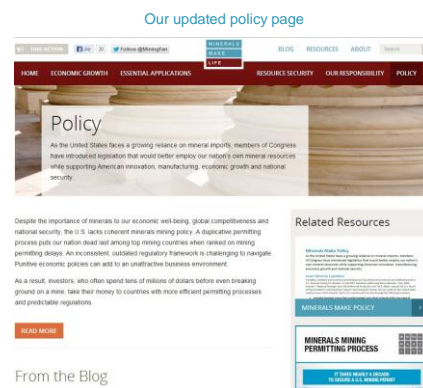
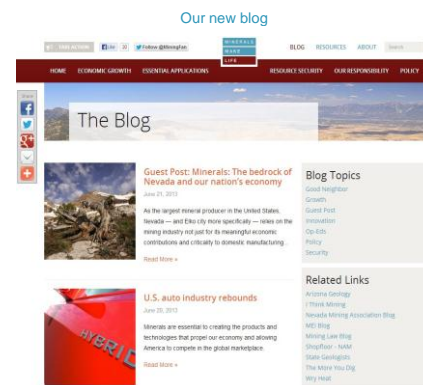
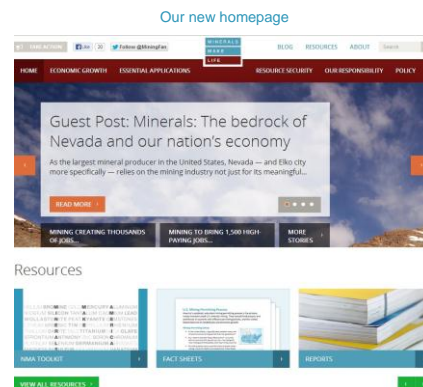
Similar to a timely and sound permitting process, **access to federal lands for mineral exploration and development is vital to a strong domestic mining industry** and bolsters the numerous American industries dependent on minerals. Yet, new mining operations are already restricted or banned on more than half of all federally owned lands. By limiting this access even further, the government jeopardizes U.S. innovation and economic growth, while increasing our reliance on foreign sources of minerals.

The importance of minerals to our national GDP and local industries cannot be understated. In a world in which competition for mineral resources is increasingly fierce, America needs policies that will streamline our permitting process and facilitate the coexistence of minerals mining and advanced energy technologies.

As we continue to raise awareness about the minerals policies that will keep America on a path toward growth, visit the **Minerals Make Life blog** on our new website for continued updates on our efforts.

Best regards,

Hal Quinn  
President and CEO  
National Mining Association



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