

Minerals Make Life is a National Mining Association initiative.



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Dear Joe,

The U.S. Labor Department released [new statistics](#) last week that hinted at an economic recovery. The report indicated the U.S. economy added 236,000 jobs in February, and unemployment fell to 7.7 percent of the workforce. This promising news came as the Dow Jones jumped to its highest point last week since November 1996 -- marking a key milestone in the long slog to recovery from the financial crisis.

The mining sector has helped fuel this [job growth](#), as employment in the sector grew by 5,000 over the past month.

While these are positive short-term signs, we must ensure we have the resources necessary to fuel long-term growth. The availability of minerals is crucial to our national security, economic growth and ability to innovate. Unfortunately, current U.S. policies do just the opposite. We should be developing strategies to ensure stable supplies of U.S. minerals for domestic manufacturing. Step one would be fixing an inefficient and overly complex permitting system that has tied up capital for years, suppressing investments and job creation in the United States.

These are concerns that I look forward to addressing in my testimony tomorrow before the [House Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee](#), which you can [watch live here](#).

Together, we can ensure the right policies are in place to help our nation meet its mineral needs. I would appreciate your input regarding the topics I cover in my testimony. Please feel free to respond to this email with particular issues you believe are important to address as Congress deliberates this important legislation.

Thank you for your continued support in these efforts. I hope to hear from you.

Best,

Hal Quinn  
President and CEO  
National Mining Association