

Minerals Make Life is a National Mining Association initiative.



MINERALS

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February 15, 2012

Dear Joe,

In a [letter](#) to President Obama last week, Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo., and nine other members of Congress urged the administration to raise the issue of China's exports restrictions on rare earth minerals with Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping who [arrived](#) in Washington yesterday.

The letter stressed the risks America faces in its dependence on imports for rare earths—79 percent of the rare earths used in the United States come from China.

The fact is, our dependence on foreign minerals, which are of great strategic importance to the U.S. economy and national defense, is even more pronounced than our dependence on foreign oil. And the supply scarcity triggered by China's market manipulation is leaving American manufacturers and end-users vulnerable to supply disruptions.

And supplies could become scarcer still. In recent [testimony](#) before the [U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission](#), a USGS chief analyst revealed that surges in China's own mineral consumption are set to fuel further demand for rare earths.

But we have the ability to alleviate our mineral supply shortages and help reverse this growing dependence on China. Our nation is home to \$6.2 trillion worth of key minerals—including notable rare earth deposits in 14 U.S. states—and American miners stand ready to safely develop these resources.

If you believe the United States should become more self-reliant, please join us in supporting [policies](#) that allow us to harness our own supplies of domestic minerals. Our [blog](#) can also help you catch up on the latest mining news.

Warm regards,

Hal Quinn
President and CEO
National Mining Association

To learn more about minerals and what they mean to America, visit 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.

