



December 19, 2017

Dear Joe,

From ensuring that duplicative [financial assurance requirements were not imposed on the mining industry](#) to ensuring millions of acres of [federal lands](#) remain available for minerals exploration, 2017 was a watershed year for common sense regulation.

Nevertheless, there is still much work to be done. As highlighted in a recent hearing of the [House Committee on Natural Resources](#), according to the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) 2017 annual report, **our minerals import reliance reached a [record high in 2017](#)**. As NMA's Katie Sweeney [testified](#) this week, the U.S. is now import-dependent for 50 different metals and minerals—and 100 percent import-dependent for 20 of those. That's half of the naturally-occurring elements on the Periodic Table.

The U.S. is blessed with one of the most abundant and rich minerals reserves in the world, yet we are increasingly looking abroad for the minerals and metals that make possible products that bear the 'Made in America' label. *You can read our [blog post](#) to learn more about what the USGS report means for minerals mining.*

Minerals are [critical](#) to our nation's security and economic growth. Minerals that are mined right here in the U.S., like uranium, provide for our energy needs while also lending their unique properties that advance technologies that improve our health, keep our troops safe and modernize our agricultural processes. Metals like beryllium and molybdenum make solar cells, communications technologies, the engines in our cars and give our skyscrapers and bridges their super strength.

Our [new infographic](#) explains the essential role minerals and metals play in boosting the economy and American competitiveness.

FUELING NATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH



[See Infographic](#)

Timely access to our minerals supply—especially in the wake of [growing demand](#) for these resources—must be a top priority for policymakers in the coming year.

How do we unlock our nation's mineral resource supply? We must modernize the U.S. mine permitting process by removing duplicative regulations and protracted delays that can last up to a decade. But we can't do it without your help.

I hope Minerals Make Life can continue to count on your support in 2018.

Happy holidays to you and your family,

Hal Quinn
NMA President and CEO

DID YOU KNOW?

Video: Mining's Continued Evolution in 2017 — Factors for Change



As we look to 2018, mining industry executives reflect on the mining sector's successes, growth and the positive trends that shaped our industry in 2017.

[Watch](#)

EPA Makes Hardrock Mining Financial Assurance Decision



After hearing from experts, EPA announced this month that duplicative financial assurance requirements on hardrock mining are unnecessary.

[Press Release](#)



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