



February 2, 2018

Dear Joe,

On Tuesday, millions of Americans tuned in to hear President Trump make his State of the Union address. During his speech, the president highlighted his plan to invest more than **\$1 trillion** in infrastructure projects over the next 10 years. While we are excited about the president's plan to revitalize our nation's infrastructure, we know that achieving our goals will be nearly impossible without reform of the mine permitting process.

To complete the much-needed repairs to our highways, bridges, power plants and more, the U.S. will need access to its wealth of raw mineral resources. Minerals like copper, molybdenum, kyanite and iron ore—all of which are produced right here in the U.S.—are vital to the foundation of our infrastructure. And although we have an estimated \$6.2 trillion in minerals reserves, protracted delays and duplicative mine

DID YOU KNOW?

Op-ed: America's Troubling and Growing Reliance on Foreign Minerals



U.S. mineral import reliance compromises our national security and standing in the global marketplace, argues the American Enterprise Institute's Mark J. Perry.

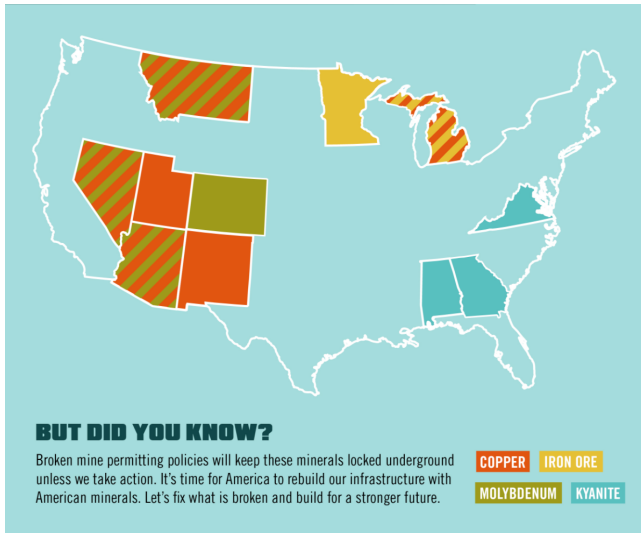
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permitting regulations inhibit our access them.

See our infographic to learn how minerals can help rebuild America.

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To make matters worse, the United States Geological Survey's [\(USGS\) 2018 Annual Report](#) found that despite our increased minerals production in 2017, our import reliance continues to climb. Our dependence on foreign minerals has doubled in the past 20 years, and we are now import-dependent for half or all of 50 key mineral commodities. Click [here](#) to discover the recent USGS report's key findings.

The ramifications of our growing import reliance ripple throughout our nation's economy. Relying on imported mineral resources and materials takes away potential jobs from hardworking Americans. U.S. minerals mining currently supports more than 1.2 million jobs. Imagine how much that number could increase if we had timely



The U.S. is a mineral-rich nation, with an estimated \$6.2 trillion worth of untapped mineral resources. Discover how realizing our minerals potential will help rebuild our nation.

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access to our mineral resources. Learn more about how our import reliance hurts our nation's economy and vital industries [here](#).

Domestically-sourced minerals can help us meet our infrastructure challenges, but only if mine permitting reform is advanced. A modernized permitting process that removes redundancies and improves access to our mineral resources would be a boon to critical industries while creating millions of American jobs, stimulating significant economic growth.

Together, we can unlock our nation's minerals potential. Please join us in our call to put mine permitting reform back on our policymakers' table. Contact your officials [here](#).

Thank you,

Hal Quinn
NMA President and CEO

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