

MINERALS

MAKE

LIFE



April 5, 2018

Dear Joe,

I recently had the pleasure of addressing a group of military and civilian leaders at the National Defense University (NDU). Along with my co-presenter, [Hecla Mining](#) President and CEO Phil Baker, I emphasized the importance of minerals mining to our national defense and security.

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Each year, the U.S. Department of Defense uses more than 750,000 tons of minerals to make the technology and equipment that keep our troops safe. For instance, nickel is used in the body armor that protects our troops from enemy fire. Rare earth minerals are used to make jet engines, and silver is a critical component in Apache helicopters.

And yet, despite abundant reserves of these

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Op-ed: [A Ground-Breaking Opportunity: Mining Critical Minerals in America](#)



Ned Mamula of Cato Institute and Stephen Moore of FreedomWorks discuss the implications of President Trump's Executive Order on increasing domestic minerals production.

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Report: [S&P Global World Exploration Trends](#)

minerals here in the U.S., our reliance on other countries for critical minerals has doubled over the last 20 years. Depending on mineral imports leaves our troops and key industries vulnerable to potentially unstable supply chains—jeopardizing our ability to produce key military technologies that ensure the safety of those who protect us.



According to a recent poll, six in 10 voters support streamlining the U.S. mine permitting process to ensure the Department of Defense (DoD) has timely access to the mineral resources necessary for our national security.

How important are minerals to our national defense?



The DoD uses up to 750,000 tons of minerals annually in the manufacture of military gear, weapon systems and other defense applications.



The Pentagon includes 37 mineral commodities in its Defense National Stockpile.

Thankfully, there's been some positive momentum in Congress in recent weeks. In addition to a recent [Executive Order](#) calling for increased domestic minerals production, the House passed [a bill proposed by](#) Rep. Mark Amodei (R-Nev.) and Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) that contains vital minerals provisions.

This bipartisan collaboration is encouraging, but we must call on our elected officials to keep up the positive momentum. A stronger, more secure America depends on our ability to establish a modernized mine permitting process that unlocks our mineral resources before our nation reaches a critical dependence point. Join us by [taking action](#) today!

Thank you,



This month, S&P Global Market Intelligence found that, while activity in the mine exploration sector reached levels not seen since early 2013, there is still room for improvement.

[Learn More](#)

Hal Quinn
NMA President and CEO



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