



June 22, 2018

Dear Joe,

Night vision goggles. Body armor. F-22s. Without materials like copper, molybdenum and aluminum, we wouldn't have these important military technologies. Minerals are fundamental to our national security.

This week, the Senate passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) but, in doing so, missed an opportunity to strengthen the U.S. military supply chain by providing timely access to critical domestic resources – an opportunity on which the House wisely acted. In its version of the NDAA, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an [amendment](#) – proposed by Rep. Mark Amodei (R-Nev.) – that would streamline permitting processes for minerals mining, taking an important step forward to decrease our growing import reliance for minerals that are the front-end of the supply chain for our defense industrial base. While similar amendments were championed by Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Dean Heller (R-Nev.), they did not get a vote.

As the bill heads to conference, the stakes couldn't be higher for our national defense. The status quo disincentivizes the use of domestic minerals and as a result, our import dependence continues to [grow](#). Today, it can

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take almost a decade to obtain a mine permit, compared with nations that have similar environmental standards like Canada and Australia, where it takes just two to three years.

New polling from Morning Consult conducted for the National Mining Association shows that Americans want action to address this problem. According to the poll, 62 percent of Americans support U.S. action to encourage the use of domestically-mined materials and decrease reliance on foreign imported minerals. That support extends across party lines with 75 percent of Republicans supporting action, 58 percent of Democrats supporting and 55 percent of Independents supporting action.

Under the amendments that have been proposed, the domestic mine permitting process would be streamlined while ensuring that important environmental standards will be upheld under the National Environmental Policy Act. To learn more about these important amendments, check out our latest blog [post](#).

See our [infographic](#) to learn more about how minerals and metals keep our troops safe.



As access to our domestic resources grows increasingly limited, it should be no surprise that our reliance on foreign imports has skyrocketed as a result. And without access to stable supply chains, the strength of our military is put at risk.

It's imperative that we encourage our policymakers to push for legislation that provides access to the materials needed for our military supply-chain to ensure that we are able to produce what our men and



Without minerals, the manufacture of many lifesaving medical devices would not be possible. That's just one reason why domestic production of minerals is so important.

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women in uniform need to defend the nation.  
Encouraging domestic exploration and  
production will not only support our military,  
but our nation as a whole.

## Take Action

Thank you,

Hal Quinn  
NMA President and CEO



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