



HAL QUINN
President & CEO

June 27, 2018

The Honorable John McCain
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen McCain, Inhofe, Thornberry, Murkowski and Bishop, and Ranking Members Reed, and Smith:

Thank you for your work to protect our servicemen and women by ensuring they have the resources and equipment they need to defend our nation and themselves. As you may be aware, the House-passed National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2019 contains important bipartisan mineral provisions to strengthen the U.S. military supply chain by providing timely access to domestic resources. As you begin to conference the House and Senate bills, the National Mining Association (NMA) and its membership urge you to support the House-passed minerals permitting language and include it in the final NDAA conference agreement.

This permitting language complements President Trump's Executive Order 13806, *Assessing and Strengthening the Manufacturing and Defense Industrial Base and Supply Chain Resiliency of the United States*, which identified the importance of a healthy manufacturing base and secure supply chain to U.S. national security. Despite the fact that minerals are at the front end of that supply chain, our import reliance for minerals required

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by our defense industrial base continues to grow and our nation has become increasingly vulnerable as a result.

America's dependence on foreign sources of minerals has reached historic levels, doubling over the past 20 years. Today, less than half of the mineral needs of U.S. manufacturing are met by domestically-mined minerals, and we are 100 percent import-dependent for 20 key minerals, many of which are critical to national defense. Lengthy seven to 10 year permitting delays present the most significant impediment to domestic mineral production. Countries such as Canada and Australia, with comparable environmental standards to the U.S., complete their permitting processes in two to three years.

New polling from Morning Consult 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, 58 percent of Democrats and 55 percent of Independents all supporting permitting reform to encourage domestic mining.

The minerals permitting language included in the NDAA will minimize delays, introduce formal review timelines, provide schedules for completing the permitting process, and track the timeliness of these activities – all while maintaining existing environmental safeguards. This language is an important step forward to decrease our growing import reliance for minerals that are at the front-end of the supply chain for our defense industrial base.

As the bill heads to conference, the stakes are high for our national defense and security. The bill presents an important opportunity to reverse years of growing import-dependence on the minerals and metals that are so essential to the mission of our military. As you continue to prioritize the needs of our men and women in uniform and the security of our nation, we urge you to maintain the House-passed minerals permitting provision in the final NDAA conference agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hal Quinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hal Quinn