



**February 26, 2019**

Dear Joe,

Despite being home to an estimated \$6.2 trillion in mineral resources, our nation's reliance on foreign mineral imports has doubled in just two decades. Thanks to outdated and duplicative mine permitting policies, investment in U.S. mine exploration and development has decreased exponentially.

In the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's first hearing of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress earlier this month, [Sen. Lisa Murkowski \(R-Alaska\) called on Congress](#) to support domestic mining and halt this dangerous trend.

"Our nation is headed in the wrong direction on mineral imports," Sen. Murkowski stated. "This is our Achilles' heel that serves to empower and enrich other nations, while costing us jobs and international competitiveness."

Murkowski's words should not be taken lightly. Inefficient mine permitting policies mean that critical sectors of our economy – from defense to healthcare to manufacturing – are forced to rely on unstable supply chains, posing a threat to our nation as a whole.

## DID YOU KNOW

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[Blog: Copper's Critical Role in Energy Technologies](#)



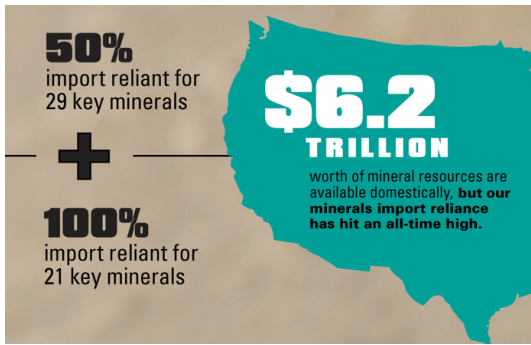
Increasing demand for electric vehicles is driving investments in U.S. copper projects. Discover how this metal plays an important role in alternative energy technologies.

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The Department of Defense uses 750,000 tons of minerals and metals each year. In order to protect our troops and our nation, U.S. policies need to provide our defense with a stable supply of these materials.

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Minerals are the backbone of almost every component of modern-day life. Titanium and gold are essential to medical technologies thousands of Americans depend on. Beryllium is used in the fighter jets and surveillance tools used by the brave men and women who serve our nation. The ways that minerals and metals impact our everyday lives goes on.

This Congress can enact meaningful change by outlining a clear timeline for the government approval process for mine permits. Thanks to Congressional leaders like Sen. Murkowski, we are getting closer to securing a stable, domestic supply chain of minerals essential to U.S. manufacturing, innovation and national security.

To learn more about the impacts of our import reliance, see our [infographic](#).

Thank you,

Hal Quinn  
NMA President and CEO

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