



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

APRIL 22, 2019

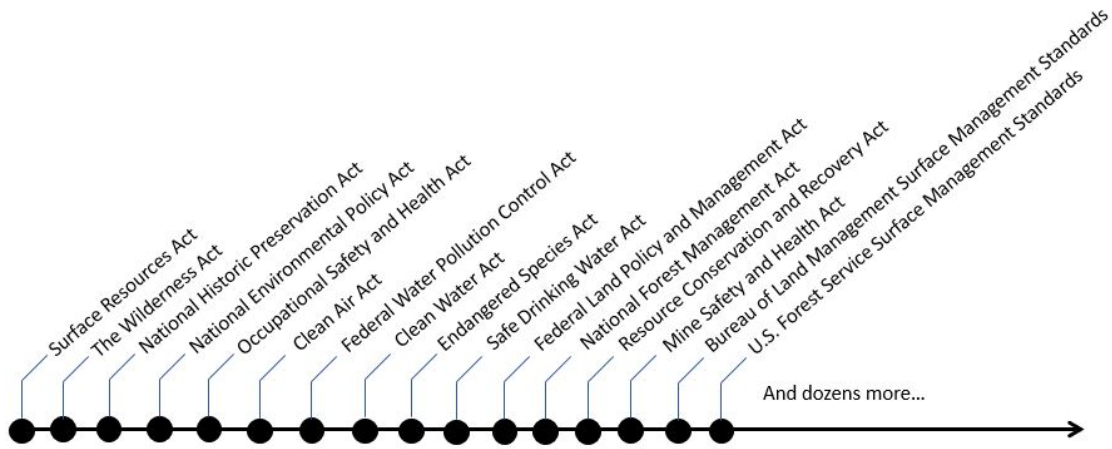
Dear Joe,

The strength and future health of the U.S. economy depends on mining, which provides the materials for nearly every industry and consumer product. A comprehensive network of state and federal laws govern the mining industry, making it one of the most heavily-regulated industries in the world.

The Mining Law of 1872 – which governs prospecting and mining for minerals like gold, copper, silver and lithium – led the U.S. to become a global leader in minerals mining, and helped advance innovations in energy, healthcare, manufacturing and defense technology. It is not an environmental statute in itself – it is complemented by exhaustive modern federal and state environmental, ecological and reclamation laws and regulations to ensure that operations fully protect public health and safety, the environment, and wildlife.

Some in Congress, unwisely, would like to change that and are planning to propose significant changes to the General Mining Law. Changes are unnecessary and would only duplicate existing environmental laws or place additional burdens on the industry that would harm its global competitiveness.

Modern environmental laws thoroughly protect the environment and cover all aspects of mining. Given the applicability of the National Environmental Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, National Historic Preservation Act and other statutes, including environmental standards in the text of the General Mining Law would provide no additional environmental benefit. Legacy mining issues are not due to the General Mining Law's lack of environmental provisions, but to the relatively brief history of environmental laws and regulations that govern all modern industrial activities, including mining.



Proposals currently being discussed contemplate a punitive 12.5 percent royalty tax, while mining’s contributions to the U.S. economy are already substantial. The U.S. mining industry already pays between 40 to 50 percent of earnings in federal, state and local royalties, taxes, and other fees to benefit the communities in which it works and the U.S. federal, state and local governments.

In addition to those formal costs, significant upfront exploratory and long-term project investments required to explore for, extract and refine hardrock minerals make it unlike other extractive industries in the heavy burden companies carry before any production begins. As a result, U.S. mining is able to feed the domestic supply chain with the raw materials needed for U.S. manufacturing, national defense, consumer goods, infrastructure and more.

Given mining’s significant investments in America, we need our policymakers to take a stand for the U.S. by supporting the vital industry of mining today!

To learn more about the comprehensive state and federal laws that govern mining, [visit our fact sheet](#).

Thank you,

Hal Quinn
 NMA President and CEO

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The U.S. mining industry is one of the most heavily-regulated in the world.
- U.S. mining's contributions to the communities in which it works, along with those to the federal, state and local governments, are substantial.

- Unique to the mining industry, companies can spend years exploring and can invest billions in infrastructure needed to produce minerals – sometimes more than a decade before seeing any return on investment.

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