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## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The International Copper Study Group reports that demand for copper will continue to grow in 2019 and 2020.
- Copper is critical to emerging technologies such as wind turbines, solar panels and electric vehicles.
- In order to ensure that U.S. industries have adequate supplies of minerals like copper, lawmakers must support the domestic mining sector.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

**JULY 23, 2019**

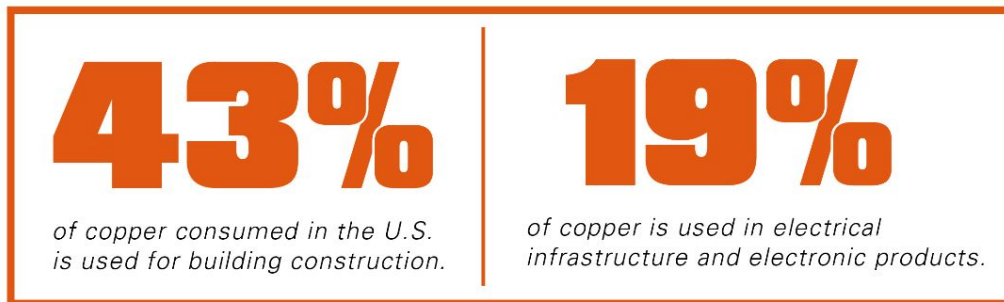
Dear Joe,

While there is renewed and rightful concern over our dependence on China for rare earth metals, this troubling import reliance is indicative of a larger challenge. Rare earths have received significant news coverage recently. But they are just one example of the larger problem of minerals that are crucial to technological innovation but locked in U.S. soil due to inept domestic policies. Take copper, for example.

Because of copper's versatility and high flexibility, this metal is critical to the stability of both our economy and emerging technology, with the average American expected to use 980 lbs. of copper in his or her lifetime. Copper can be found in states like Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Montana and New Mexico, with the industry offering stable, premium jobs averaging \$100,000 in annual wages – about 75 percent more than the average private sector job in the U.S. Yet, according to the 2019 USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries [report](#), the U.S. is currently 32 percent import-reliant for copper. At the same time, the International Copper Study Group [found](#) that “sustained growth in copper demand is expected to continue because copper is essential to economic

activity and even more so to the modern technological society.”

Copper is used in a variety of high-tech applications – from energy-safe buildings to technologies our troops rely on every day. It’s also a key component of energy technologies such as wind turbines, solar panels and electric vehicles (EVs). A single [EV](#) can use between 85 and 183 pounds of copper, while hybrid and electric buses can contain between 183 and 814 pounds. Perhaps without knowing it, you rely on copper every day.



high transmission powerlines



phone lines



advanced energy technologies



power cables

To ensure that we have ample supplies of minerals like copper, our policymakers must support the U.S. mining industry. A 2014 USGS global assessment of copper deposits indicated that there are about 2.1 billion tons of identified but undeveloped copper, while undiscovered resources contained an estimated 3.5 billion tons. Streamlining the permitting process to expedite access to our wealth of reserves would be a boon to our economy and [downstream industries](#)—while helping reduce our dependence on mineral imports.

Learn more about the vulnerabilities posed by our alarmingly-high reliance on foreign minerals [here](#).

Thank you,

## OP-ED

### [Reliance on foreign mines an environmental and national security risk](#)



The U.S. is falling behind in the production of minerals that are critical to domestic manufacturing and our national defense. That's why Congress must support increased mineral production.

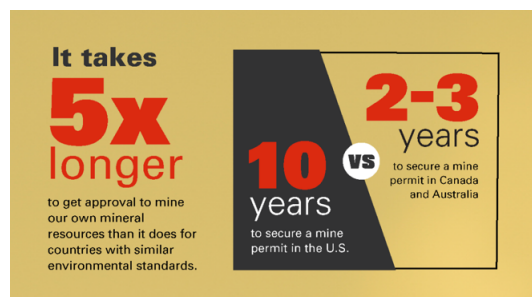
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## BLOG

### [New U.S. Dept. of Commerce Report Stresses Need For Mining Reform](#)

The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) released a report recommending



immediate action to ensure a reliable supply of minerals in the U.S. The report underscores the risk factors associated with our mineral import reliance.

**READ HERE**

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