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## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The U.S. Department of Defense uses 750,000 tons of minerals annually for our military.
- America's duplicative mine permitting process prevents investment in domestic minerals development.
- Our military needs a mineral supply chain for the weapon systems and defense technologies that keep our troops safe.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

NOVEMBER 11, 2019

Dear Joe,

A veteran means something different to each one of us. For some, it means a father or daughter, grandfather or grandmother; to others, a cousin or neighbor. On this Veterans Day, we recognize all the brave men and women who served in our nation's armed forces – a group protecting and defending the U.S. both domestically and abroad.

What many Americans fail to realize is just how important a secure minerals supply chain is to our national defense. Minerals and metals are needed to produce the equipment, weapons systems and defense technologies that have allowed and continue to allow our troops to defend our nation and to return home safely. For our service members in the field, minerals like [cobalt, silver and zinc become their eyes and ears](#) in times of conflict. Whether it's [rare earth minerals for night-vision goggles and sonar](#) or [beryllium for surveillance and UAVs](#), an unwavering connection exists between minerals mining and our military. In fact, the Department of Defense uses up to [750,000 tons](#) of minerals annually to manufacture the equipment that forms the backbone of America's

military might. For rare earths alone, the U.S. Department of Defense accounts for about [9% of global demand](#).



Unfortunately, current U.S. mine permitting regulations fail to address the legitimate threats to our military supply chains. America's mining community has the potential to meet our defense needs by producing domestically-sourced minerals through a secured supply chain. Our policymakers must reassess current U.S. mining policies and reinvigorate them with commonsense reform that incentivizes investments. Before we look to import [minerals from foreign entities](#), we should first look to our estimated \$6.2 trillion worth of domestic mineral resources still locked underground.

[The U.S. mine permitting process](#) can often be three times slower than nations with comparable environmental standards. Why would investors choose us when they can rely on countries that grant swift approvals for mining operations to begin producing precious minerals? Addressing our strategic disadvantage begins with expediting our country's minerals mine permitting process which takes up to a decade. The decisions made in Washington and in our local governments directly impact the readiness of our military. Our men and women in uniform from the past and present deserve a supply-chain that isn't subject to the whims of geopolitical rivals. [Ask your policymakers](#) to strengthen our domestic mineral supply-chain.

As you celebrate this Veterans Day, remember that our veterans put everything on the line to protect and defend our freedom. We must, in turn, ensure they have the continued support needed from us.

Thank you,

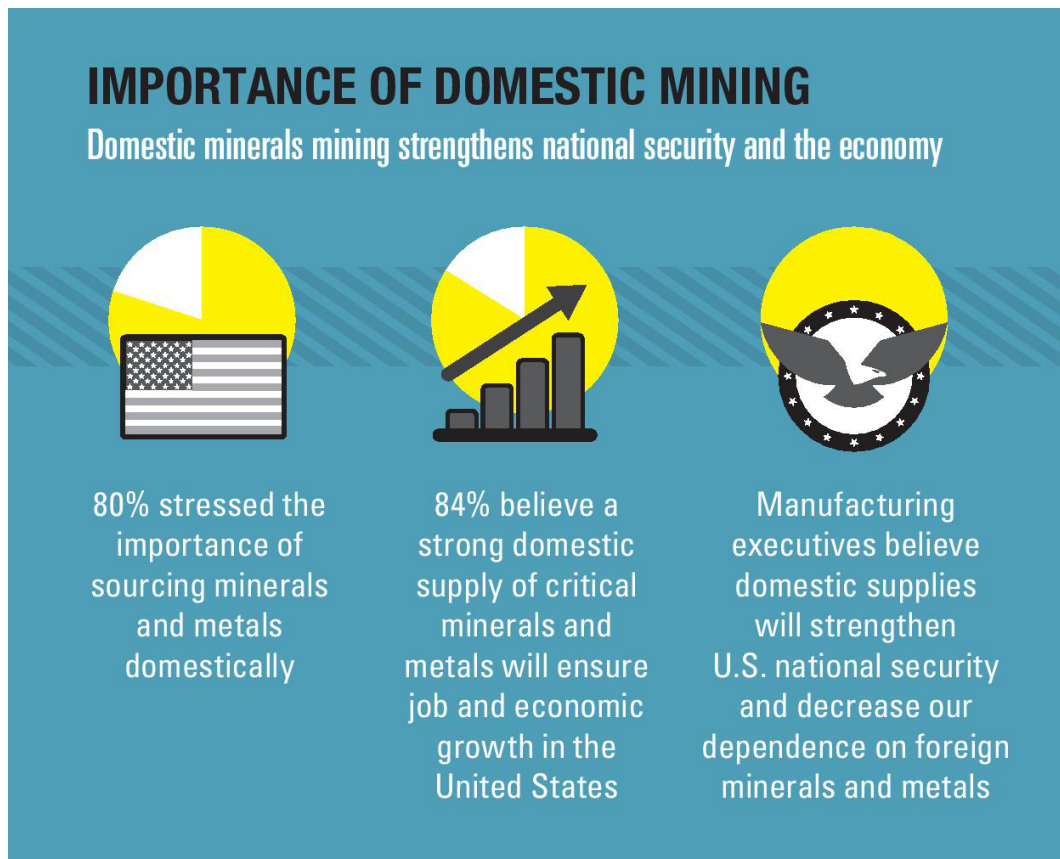
Rich Nolan

NMA President and CEO

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## INFOGRAPHIC

### Mining: The Foundation of U.S. Manufacturing



The United States is ready to meet mineral demands through commonsense mining policies.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## BLOG

### [Sen. Murkowski Calls for Action on Minerals Mining](#)

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) has proposed a plan to significantly reduce our minerals import reliance.

[LEARN MORE](#)





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