Minerals provide the foundation for the American way of life. They inspire the innovation of new technologies, feed U.S. manufacturing and are vital to our national security.

In 2011, $669 billion worth of processed mineral materials were used by sectors including construction, manufacturing and agriculture to add more than $2.2 trillion to the U.S. economy. Minerals were put to use in lifesaving medical devices, our nation’s infrastructure, defense technologies, and the computers and communications systems that connect us to the world.

Though America is home to a wealth of mineral resources, our ability to secure these critical materials amid rising global competition is threatened by an outdated permitting process and regulations that delay mining projects for years—in some cases, up to a decade or more.

Our nation’s lack of a coherent, forward-looking minerals policy has forced U.S. manufacturers to secure roughly half of their minerals from foreign countries in an increasingly competitive market. This import dependence subjects our minerals supply chain to disruptions, threatens our security and gives nations with established minerals policies a head start on economic growth.

Over the past year, I’ve traveled the country to learn more about how the absence of a minerals policy and the resulting deficiency in domestic production affects not just businesses, but also communities that stand to benefit from the good jobs and economic stimulus mining provides.

While there has been recent headway in Congress to address impediments to mining, still greater progress is needed before our nation can realize the full potential of U.S. minerals mining.

In the following pages, I invite you to learn more about what minerals mean to America, the challenges facing our supply chain, and solutions to ensuring our nation has access in the long term to the minerals that will define America’s future.

Thank you for your support and interest.

Best regards,
Hal Quinn
President and CEO
National Mining Association
It’s time other leaders make smart decisions that encourage domestic minerals development, and invest in the futures of young professionals like myself.

Grace Bernard
2012 Graduate
Colorado School of Mines

U.S. minerals mining supports more than 1.2 million jobs. A job in U.S. metal ore mining is one of the highest paying in the private sector, with an average salary registering $85,504 a year and often climbing above $100,000 for experienced workers.

Prospects for those entering the field today are bright; not only have technological and advanced practices helped to make mining continually safer for workers, but mining is one of a handful of sectors that will add jobs at a fairly consistent rate over the next 20 years, adding between 11,000 and 13,000 jobs per year.

10% INCREASE
10 YEARS

INCREASE IN METAL ORE MINING JOBS AMID RECORD JOB LOSS IN THE ECONOMY

$85,504
2011 AVERAGE SALARY
79% HIGHER THAN COMBINED AVERAGE SALARY OF ALL PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS ($47,815)

1.2 MILLION AMERICAN JOBS ARE SUPPORTED BY MINERALS MINING

416,000 DIRECTLY EMPLOYED
798,000 INDIRECTLY EMPLOYED

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DISCIPLINES RELEVANT TO MINERALS MINING

MINERALS TUNGSTEN BORON GRAPHITE VERMICULITE IRON MAKE PLATINUM FLUORSPAR VANADIUM RARE EARTHS GOLD GROWTH KYANITE POTASH NIQUEL IODINE
Innovation and Production

Minerals are critical to developing the technologies that will propel our economy, enable America to compete globally, and improve the quality of our lives. They are the building blocks for the manufacturing, construction and automotive industries and are essential to growth in burgeoning fields such as advanced energy and health care.

The technologies that define innovation today all depend on a growing number of minerals. For example, in the 1980s, computer chips were made with a palette of 12 minerals. A decade later, 16 elements were used. Today, as many as 60 different minerals or their constituent elements are used in fabricating the high-speed, high-capacity integrated circuits that are crucial to this technology.

“When you’re manufacturing anything, even if the work is done by robots and machines, there’s an incredible value chain involved,” Susan Hockfield, the president of M.I.T., says. “Manufacturing is simply this huge engine of job creation.” For batteries, that value chain would include scientists researching improved materials to companies mining ores for metals; contractors building machines for factory work; and designers, engineers and machine operators doing the actual plant work.

“Does America Need Manufacturing?”


Value of Domestic Resources (2008) $2.5 trillion $831 billion $720 billion $295 billion $37 billion $5.8 billion $256 million $112 million

Import Reliance (2011) 35% 36% 73% 75% 75% 100% 100% 100%

Industries, utilized minerals TO ADD MORE THAN TO U.S. GDP $2 trillion
Supply Chain and Growing Demand

As the world’s population grows, as developing countries embrace new technologies and erect new infrastructures, and as products relying on greater combinations of minerals come to market, demand for minerals is growing. Though U.S. mines play an important role in meeting domestic demand for many minerals, American industries currently rely on foreign suppliers for more than half the minerals they use, a substantial increase from 30 years ago. Our growing dependence on imports leaves us vulnerable to supply disruptions caused by factors such as natural disasters, labor strikes, political instability, and market manipulation. This can contribute to higher costs for U.S. companies, leading to higher costs for consumers, and in some cases, companies moving overseas to obtain access to the minerals essential to their products.

Over the past 30 years, U.S. companies have increasingly relied on imported raw materials, even for resources we have here at home.

U.S. Import Reliance at the World Trade Organization

Despite substantial domestic resources, the United States relies on China for 79 percent of its rare earth supplies. But in recent years, China has been restricting its exports of rare earth minerals. As a result, U.S. businesses have seen price increases of nearly 300 percent for the rare earths vital to advanced energy technologies, electronics and military applications, leading to a multi-country challenge filed with the WTO to force China to lift export limits.
The vitality of a powerful nation depends upon its ability to secure access to the strategic resources necessary to sustain its economy and produce effective weapons for defense.


Reliable access to minerals means a more secure America. The U.S. Department of Defense uses nearly three-quarters of a million tons of minerals every year in the technologies that protect our nation.

In the past, the United States has been able to readily access minerals due to abundant global supplies. But with our growing reliance on imports for an ever-widening range of minerals, the United States is now at greater risk of facing supply disruptions. Without a reliable domestic supply chain, our access to many minerals vital to our security is controlled by foreign governments that have the ability to withhold minerals and complicate international trade relations.

To reestablish our strategic autonomy and maintain the ability to respond on a moment’s notice to security needs, we should have a reliable mineral supply chain.

Countries with Minerals Strategies Advance

Despite the importance of minerals to our economic well-being, global competitiveness and national security, the United States lacks a coherent minerals mining policy. A duplicative permitting process puts our nation dead last among top mining countries when ranked on mining permitting delays. An inconsistent, outdated regulatory framework is challenging to navigate. Punitive economic policies can add to an unattractive business environment.

As a result, investors, who often spend tens of millions of dollars before even breaking ground on a mine, take their money to countries with more efficient permitting processes and predictable regulations.

While countries around the world enact forward-looking minerals policies, we in the United States watch mining jobs go overseas. We forfeit tax revenue from mining projects. We make minerals harder to obtain for U.S. manufacturers. We subject ourselves to foreign governments for the minerals vital to our security.

### GOAL
Promote sustainable development and use of mineral and metal resources, protect the environment and public health, and ensure an attractive investment climate

### BUSINESS POLICY
- Require accountability in environmental performance and mineral stewardship
- Use a life cycle-based approach to mineral management and use
- Promote a recycling industry and incorporate recycling as part of product design

### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY
- Provide comprehensive geosciences information infrastructure
- Promote technological innovation in mining processes
- Develop value-added mineral and metal products

### MATERIALS OF INTEREST
- Al, Ag, Au, Fe, Ni, Cu, Pb and Mo

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<tr>
<th>PRODUCING COUNTRY</th>
<th>CONSUMING COUNTRY</th>
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<td><strong>GOAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>GOAL</strong></td>
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<td>Maintain a stable supply of raw materials for domestic use through industry consolidation, mitigating overproduction and reducing illegal trade</td>
<td>Limit the impact of potential material supply shortages on the European economy</td>
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<td><strong>BUSINESS POLICY</strong></td>
<td><strong>BUSINESS POLICY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Establish taxes and quotas on rare earth element exports</td>
<td>Build a mineral trade policy for open international markets</td>
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<td>Prohibit foreign companies in rare earth element mining</td>
<td>Gather information</td>
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<td>Consolidate industry</td>
<td>Streamline land permitting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create unified pricing mechanisms*</td>
<td>Increase recycling regulations*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Establish production quotas</td>
<td>Explore substitution research funded through Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY</strong></td>
<td><strong>RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase material efficiency in applications</td>
<td>Complete exploration, excavation, refining and safety research funded through the Japan Oil Gas and Metals National Corporation</td>
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<td>Identify material substitutes</td>
<td>Improve end-of-life product collection and recycling processes</td>
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<td><strong>MATERIALS OF INTEREST</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sb, Be, Co, Ga, Ge, In, Mg, Nb, rare earth elements, Ta, W, fluorspar and graphite</td>
<td>Ni, Mn, Co, W, Mo and V</td>
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*Proposed policy
SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Beyond providing a significant source of revenue to state and local governments, mining supports communities through contributions to local charities. In 2012, Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold allocated $500,000 to the Grant County, New Mexico, community. These funds were put toward adult literacy, Habitat for Humanity and Big Brothers Big Sisters initiatives, among many others.

2.6 MILLION ACRES RECLAIMED
AND RESTORED OVER 30 YEARS.

U.S. MINERALS MINING PAID MORE THAN $16.5 BILLION IN FEDERAL TAXES IN 2010, AND MORE THAN $10.6 BILLION IN LOCAL AND STATE TAXES.

WORKER SAFETY

White U.S. mining has lower injury rates than most other industrial sectors, mineral producers continue working toward improved mining safety and health.

CORESafety

This year, U.S. mining endorsed CORESafety, a new, unique initiative developed to evaluate health and safety approaches of industries around the world. CORESafety will be used to allocate totalizations... and reduce the rate of workplace fatalities by 50 percent in the next five years.

CORESafety seeks to eliminate... and reduce the rate of worksite injuries by 50 percent in the next five years.

2.6 million acres is larger than Yellowstone National Park.

RECLAMATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Mining companies invest heavily in the research and development of new technologies and processes to minimize environmental impact, part of what makes the United States one of the most environmentally cautious mining nations in the world.

More than three dozen federal environmental laws and regulations—in addition to laws at the state and local level—are in place, governing all aspects of mining. Even before mining can begin on a project, a plan to restore the mine site to another beneficial use must be developed and approved by regulatory agencies, and funding must be set aside to complete the restoration work.

In addition, today's mining industry frequently supports state and federal regulatory agencies in their efforts to assess and remediate legacy abandoned mine sites. Mining frequently contributes financial support, equipment, operator time, transportation and fuel to assist with remediation of these sites.

CORESafety seeks to eliminate... and reduce the rate of worksite injuries by 50 percent in the next five years.

CONSTRUCTION

MINING

Lower injury rate than:

FORESTRY

AGRICULTURE

MINING

Lower injury rate than:

CONSTRUCTION

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People are at the core of U.S. minerals mining—the employees, whose dedication and expertise define the mining workforce and mining’s friends and neighbors in communities across the country. Nothing is more important to U.S. mining than the safety of its workers and being a good neighbor and environmental steward.

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To help stimulate economic recovery, secure our future and remain competitive in a global economy, the United States needs a strategy that encourages investment in the development of our domestic minerals. What does this strategy look like?

A MORE EFFICIENT PERMITTING PROCESS
Mining companies independently pursue and invest in new technologies and processes that will minimize mining’s environmental footprint in addition to complying with federal and state laws regarding land use and reclamation and the protection of air and water resources. All these measures—including a vigorous permitting process—are necessary. What is ultimately needed, however, is an efficient permitting process that protects the environment while stimulating job creation and economic opportunity.

A CONSISTENT AND SOUND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK
As we look to the future, we must ensure that regulations evolve to meet new challenges and realities. At the same time, we must make certain regulations are consistently guided by sound science rather than political agendas. To keep our doors open to investment, we must ensure the system balances and manages environmental and social concerns with our nation’s economic interests in a consistent and predictable manner.

NON-PUNITIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES
The economic policies of the United States must remain competitive in order to attract investment. At 35 percent, the United States’ corporate tax rate is among the highest in the world. In addition, mining is subject to various state taxes and levies, pays high wages, and complies with strict environmental and safety requirements. These and other factors contribute to U.S. minerals mining’s cost burden. Nonetheless, U.S. minerals mining is committed to paying its fair share.

MINERALS
BORON
ABRASIVES
NITROGEN
STRONTIUM
RUBIDIUM
ZINC
FLUORSPAR
IRON
ORE
DIAMOND
TANTALUM
TIN
CEMENT
GOLD
SALT
TUNGSTEN
SCANDIUM
INDIUM
ANTIMONY
MAGNESIUM

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Producing to our resource potential for Copper + Molybdenum + Iron Ore would have resulted in an additional $32 billion in U.S. revenue last year.

Increasing global demand for lithium-based technologies has presented Nevada with an opportunity to leverage its lithium resources, including those at Chemetall Silver Peak mine, to build a market and create jobs. Nevada-based company K2 Energy utilizes Nevada lithium in battery backup systems, electric vehicle motors and handheld devices, and has seen exponential growth in just three years.

Through the establishment of a sound domestic minerals policy, U.S. mining can lead the way to a more secure and prosperous future.

In addition to creating mining jobs and supporting current manufacturing operations, increased U.S. minerals mining will create new markets, giving producers statics the opportunity to leverage their mineral resources to develop industries and jobs around the technologies that utilize their minerals.

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Through the establishment of a sound domestic minerals policy, U.S. mining can lead the way to a more secure and prosperous future.
Minerals generate value in all 50 states. Here’s a look at some of the top minerals producing states and the value generated by mineral production.

1. NEVADA $10.40 Billion
   Gold, copper, silver, lime, sand and gravel (construction).

2. ARIZONA $8.25 Billion
   Copper, molybdenum concentrates, sand and gravel (construction), silver, cement (portland).

3. UTAH $4.57 Billion
   Copper, molybdenum concentrates, gold, potash, magnesium metal.

4. MINNESOTA $5.15 Billion
   Iron ore (usable shipped), sand and gravel (construction), stone (crushed), lime.

5. ALASKA $3.79 Billion
   Zinc, gold, silver, lead, sand and gravel (construction).

6. COLORADO $3.84 Billion
   Molybdenum concentrates, gold, sand and gravel (construction), cement (portland), stone (crushed).

7. IDAHO $1.29 Billion
   Molybdenum concentrates, phosphate rock, silver, sand and gravel (construction), lead.

8. MONTANA $1.36 Billion
   Copper, palladium metal, molybdenum concentrates, platinum metal, tin.

9. MISSOURI $2.22 Billion
   Cement (portland), stone (crushed), lead, lime, sand and gravel (construction).

10. FLORIDA $3.27 Billion
    Phosphate rock, sand (crushed), cement (portland), sand and gravel (construction), zeolite concentrates.

11. MICHIGAN $2.47 Billion
    Iron ore (usable shipped), cement (portland), sand and gravel (construction), salt, stone (crushed).

About the National Mining Association
The National Mining Association (NMA) is the voice of U.S. mining in Washington, D.C. NMA is the only national trade organization that represents the interests of mining before Congress, the administration, federal agencies, the judiciary and the media.

About Minerals Make Life
Minerals Make Life is a National Mining Association initiative created to share information about domestic minerals mining and its importance to the economy, innovation for the future and national security. The initiative will educate America’s policymakers, influencers and the public and enable them to make informed decisions about U.S. mining.

Minerals Make Life aims to engage consumers, decision-makers, U.S. mining employees, retirees, suppliers and other key stakeholders in communities nationwide to speak on the need to create policy prescriptions critical to ensuring we have the minerals we need for economic prosperity and national security.

www.mineralsmakelife.org