

Rich Nolan
President & CEO

September 16, 2025

Chairman Bruce Westerman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Jared Huffman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1332 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman;

On behalf of the National Mining Association (NMA), I am writing to express support for certain bills under consideration at today's markup. These measures promote the shared goal of strengthening domestic mineral development, which is crucial to our economic competitiveness, and energy and national security.

A recent analysis by S&P Global found that it takes 29 years, on average, to bring a new U.S. mine into production.¹ At a time when demand for minerals is accelerating, federal policy must provide clarity and long-term regulatory certainty. Only with a predictable framework can the mining industry make the generational investments needed to responsibly expand domestic production and secure the supply chains that underpin both our economic and national security interests. The NMA urges support for the following legislation:

- **Mineral Extraction of Renewable Industry and Critical Applications (MERICA) Act (H.R. 3872)** – This legislation streamlines the federal permitting process for critical mineral projects, ensuring timely access to the resources needed for clean energy technologies, advanced manufacturing, and national security

¹ S&P Global, "United States Ranks Next to Last in Development Time for New Mines that Produce Critical Minerals for Energy Transition," July 18, 2024. <https://press.spglobal.com/2024-07-18-United-States-Ranks-Next-to-Last-in-Development-Time-for-New-Mines-that-Produce-Critical-Minerals-for-Energy-Transition,-S-P-Global-Finds>

applications, while strengthening America's ability to reduce reliance on foreign mineral supply chains.

- **Codification of Trump Executive Orders on Hardrock Mining (H.R. 4090)** – This legislation formalizes key provisions of President Trump's executive orders related to domestic hardrock mining to streamline the permitting process, increase access to U.S. mineral resources on federal lands, and lessen regulatory burdens on responsible mineral development.

Together, H.R. 3872 and H.R. 4090 mark significant progress in strengthening America's critical mineral supply chains. By promoting responsible domestic production, these bills will help ensure the availability of vital U.S. resources for energy production, advanced manufacturing, and national defense, all while maintaining the high safety and environmental standards that distinguish the U.S. I respectfully urge your support for these important pieces of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rich Nolan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rich Nolan