

July 12, 2012

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The undersigned organizations urge you to vote yes on H.R. 4402 “The Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2012.” H.R. 4022 would allow our nation to unlock its full domestic minerals potential by incorporating into the mine permitting process best practices for coordination of permitting, clarifying responsibilities, avoiding duplication and bringing more accountability to the process.

Every year, the average American uses hundreds of newly mined minerals. For American business, minerals are the front-end of the supply chain that enable various industries to bring to market products that keep our citizens healthy and our economy competitive. Everyday items like cell phones, laptops, cars—even buildings, lifesaving medical devices and equipment used in national defense systems—all come from minerals. Vital to the U.S. economic growth, minerals are the basic building blocks of modern manufactured products for the agriculture, defense, aerospace, construction, electronics, energy, and auto sectors.

The United States has abundant reserves of many of these minerals, and was once a leader in critical mineral production. However, a protracted and inefficient permitting process has reduced investment in domestic mineral development and increased our import dependency. The U.S. has one of the longest permitting processes in the world for mining projects, placing domestic mining investments at a competitive disadvantage. In fact, permitting delays are the most significant risk to mining projects in the United States.

In a world in which the competition for mineral resources is increasingly fierce, America can no longer afford to ignore a permitting process that stalls investment—threatening raw material shortages and downstream economic activity. We need assertive measures, such as those provided by H.R. 4402, to reverse a 30-year trend of increasing import reliance for materials we have here at home and lend a much-needed hand to the industries that will put Americans back to work.

We once again urge you to vote YES on H.R. 4402 “The Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2012.”

Sincerely,

Agriculture Retailers Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
Far West Agribusiness Association  
Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry  
Industrial Minerals Association- North America  
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers  
Missouri Agribusiness Association

Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Mining Association  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
Nebraska Agri-Business Association  
Nevada Manufacturers Association  
Nevada Trucking Association  
Northwest Mining Association  
Ohio Agribusiness Association  
Strategic Materials Advisory Council  
The Chamber of Reno, Sparks and Northern Nevada  
The Fertilizer Institute  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Magnetic Materials Association  
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association  
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce  
Wyoming Ag-Business Association