June 25, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As manufacturers, researchers, consumers, and developers of goods and services that rely upon critical minerals, we write to express our appreciation for progress made on critical minerals legislation, to encourage further advancement, and to offer our support for any related efforts. Our organizations represent nearly every sector of the American economy, including defense, energy, transportation, infrastructure, agriculture, technology, academia, electronics, finance, and medicine.

From exploration to recycling, we are active in the supply chains for nearly every commodity. As a result, we have a unique perspective on the public policies needed for reliable, affordable, and secure sources of raw materials. Updating our geologic data, reducing delays in permitting, bolstering research, and encouraging efficient use can pay dividends for future generations. An opportunity exists to advance these objectives in a bipartisan manner, which would allow the United States to leverage its world-class mineral reserves and reduce our reliance on foreign countries for over half the available supplies of 40 different mineral commodities.

Greater domestic production of critical minerals can bolster our national and economic security, and create jobs. A more robust supply of these raw materials would make the United States – already an attractive market for business – an even more advantageous place for investment going forward. This production can and should be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with our nation's environmental regulations.

Now is an opportune moment to advance policies that benefit vast swaths of the American economy and enjoy broad support. A great deal of time and effort has been devoted to the advancement of critical minerals legislation, a strong record has been built reflecting the urgency of this challenge, and the time has come to take next steps. We remain hopeful that critical minerals legislation can be signed into law soon and stand ready to help make it happen.

Sincerely,

Alaska Support Industry Alliance
American Chemical Society
American Elements
American Geosciences Institute
Arizona Technology Council
Associated Equipment Distributors
The Auto Alliance
CalPortland
Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry
CTIA - The Wireless Association
Dow Chemical Company
Electron Energy Corp
The Fertilizer Institute
FMC Corporation
Geological Society of America
Great Western Minerals Group
Infinium
Information Technology Industry Council
Johnson Controls
Materials Research Society
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
National Industrial Sand Association
National Venture Capital Association
Reshoring Initiative
Rio Grande Foundation
Smart United Business Strategies
Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration
Southern Arizona Business Coalition
Strategic Materials Advisory Council
Thomas & Skinner
Truck and Engine Manufacturers Association
Urban Mining Co.
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Magnetic Materials Association
Utah Manufacturers Association
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce