

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



Smart United Business Strategies, Inc.

U.S. Magnetic Materials Association

Utah Manufacturers Association



Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce