

Wayne D. Palmer Bio

Wayne D. Palmer serves as the Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health Administration. Pending Senate confirmation of his presidential appointment, he served as Senior Advisor in the Department of Labor's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, assisting other senior-level nominees through all phases of their confirmations.

For most of the first Trump administration, he served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety & Health, following stints as 2017 Beachhead Team Leader and Chief of Staff at the Department of Labor. Between administrations, he specialized in metal/nonmetal mining issues as Executive Vice President at the Essential Minerals Association. He simultaneously served as a Cleared Advisor to the Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Critical Minerals and Nonferrous Metals, a public-private forum jointly administered by the Department of Commerce and the United States Trade Representative to ensure that the mining industry has a voice in formulating U.S. trade policy.

Previously, Assistant Secretary Palmer served 13 years in Congress, lastly as Chief of Staff to the third-ranking Senate Republican leader. He began his career as a Presidential Management Fellow at the Department of Commerce. A native of Easton, Pennsylvania, he holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Penn State and a Master of Government Affairs from the University of Pennsylvania.