Rich Nolan
President & CEO

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Chairman Westerman, and Ranking Member Huffman:

On behalf of the National Mining Association (NMA), I urge the U.S. House of Representatives to advance bipartisan permitting reform legislation. Doing so would alleviate key permitting delays for critical U.S. industries such as mining and provide needed solutions to enhance U.S. economic competitiveness and national security objectives.

As the only national trade organization that serves as the voice of the U.S. mining industry and the hundreds of thousands of American workers it employs before Congress, the federal agencies, the judiciary, and the media, the NMA works to ensure America has secure and reliable supply chains, abundant and affordable energy, and American-sourced materials – all delivered under world- leading environmental, safety, and labor standards.

The mining industry operates under a comprehensive framework of federal and state laws, regulations, and policies that govern nearly every inch of a mine site. While the NMA and our members support regulations that both foster environmental protection and promote responsible development, we also rely on fair, consistent, and predictable permitting processes to enable U.S. mining to be competitive in the global economy.

A recent report by S&P Global found that it takes an average of 29 years to bring a mine online in the U.S.[1] For too long, regulatory uncertainty in the permitting process – combined with an inefficient National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process – has delayed projects, chilled investment in U.S. mining operations, and inhibited the ability to mine the raw materials on which our nation's national, economic and energy security depend.

Permitting uncertainty can also cause project proponents and investors alike to look outside the U.S. when determining where to invest and develop projects. This puts our nation's supply chain independence at a strategic disadvantage and creates a dangerous situation where we become increasingly import-dependent for the mined materials our country's economy needs.

Change is needed to make the permitting process for mining projects, including NEPA, more timely and efficient. Reducing delays and duplication caused by NEPA analyses as well as increasing transparency would benefit not only project proponents, but also federal, state and local governments as well as the public. Further, allowing mining companies to use needed lands for ancillary purposes and enacting judicial reforms would be a catalyst not only for investment in domestic energy and mineral projects, but also the research and development capabilities needed to bring those projects to fruition.

I am encouraged by ongoing bipartisan efforts to pursue durable permitting reforms like those in the SPEED Act (H.R. 4776). This legislation is an important step forward and will help secure the nation's mineral supply chains and encourage development of our energy resources. It will also enhance America's economic competitiveness and national security while safeguarding the environment. The NMA and its members look forward to working with congress in a bipartisan way to advance lasting and effective permitting reforms.

Sincerely,

Rich Nolan

[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-forNew-Mines-that-Produce-Critical-Minerals-for-Energy-Transition,-S-P-Global-Finds