Rich Nolan
President & CEO

November 19, 2025

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 Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

On behalf of the National Mining Association (NMA), I write in support of the bipartisan Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act (H.R. 4776). Advancing this legislation will help 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.

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. 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]

Permitting uncertainty can also cause project proponents and investors alike to look outside the U.S. when determining where to invest. In addition, the weaponization of NEPA as a tool for litigation has allowed this well-intentioned law to stray far from its intended purpose and underlying text. 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.

The SPEED Act is an important step forward to address these challenges. The NEPA and judicial reforms, among others, in this bipartisan legislation will make the permitting process for mining and other types of projects more timely and efficient.

As part of permitting reform, Congress should advance the bipartisan Mining Regulatory Clarity Act (MRCA) (H.R. 1366) along with the SPEED Act. This legislation, which passed the committee with bipartisan support, would rectify an egregious court decision, returning land use interpretation to what it always has been under the General Mining Law. This commonsense legislation will provide much-needed regulatory certainty and clarity to miners and cut through red tape holding back investment and sorely needed new production.

Reducing delays and duplication while improving regulatory certainty 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 you're your committee, and the rest of Congress, 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-Lastin-Development-Time-forNew-Mines-that-Produce-Critical-Minerals-for-Energy-Transition,-S-P-Global-Finds