Testimony for the Record

**U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources**

**Legislative Hearing to Consider the
Mining Schools Act of 2023**

June 14, 2023

On behalf of the National Mining Association (NMA) and the nearly 1.3 million hard-working men and women directly and indirectly employed by the mining industry, we express our strong and continued support for the Mining Schools Act of 2023 (H.R. 2685). Modern mining depends on a 21st century workforce that drives innovation, continues to prioritize health and safety while working to reduce environmental risk, and supports the communities where we live and work.

This bipartisan and bicameral legislation supports recruitment and education opportunities for engineers and other qualified professionals in the field of mining through a competitive grant program established by the Department of Energy, in consultation with the Department of the Interior. It further strengthens programs related to exploration, extraction, processing, refining, reclamation and reprocessing technologies for hardrock minerals and coal products to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign energy and mineral supplies.

As our global energy and mineral demands continue to increase at a rate never before seen, we must recruit, educate, train and develop tomorrow's workforce today, giving them the tools they need to develop a secure domestic supply chain that will deliver economic and national security for future generations. The mining industry is a highly technical field that already employs leading technologies in autonomy, mobility, active safety, and advanced data and analytics. These capabilities require a more technical workforce yet attracting and retaining great talent is a challenge.

The Mining Schools Act of 2022 helps to bridge the generational workforce gap by ensuring the next generation of miners continue to develop their skills alongside technological advancements, driving innovation and improving best practices.

From grant funding to cutting-edge research programs, we urge you to support this bipartisan legislation and this essential workforce.