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February 6, 2025

Representative Pete Stauber, Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Yassamin Ansari, Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Stauber and Ranking Member Ansari,

On behalf of North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) and the three million members we represent, we thank the subcommittee for holding this important hearing. Across our nation, thousands of our members remain in limbo due to the lack of permitting certainty surrounding the construction of mines. These men and women are eager to get to work supplying our nation with a greater sense of self-sufficiency found by diminishing our reliance on mineral imports from adversarial nations, thereby ensuring our national security and growing our ability to establish numerous domestic industries.

As the highest skilled workforce in the country, the Building Trades are committed to constructing these mines with the utmost professionalism, addressing our imminent need to both extract these minerals and protect the communities where they are located. The construction of these projects typically requires thousands of skilled construction professionals, many coming from the rural communities where they are sited. They are a crucial engine for growth both locally and nationally.

We at NABTU have urged all members of Congress to recognize the two critical factors in this debate; the expansive benefits of domestic mining, and the impediment caused by our permitting regime. In many cases the minerals from these mines go to develop domestic industries where our members are building manufacturing facilities or deploying technologies at larger scale.

The jobs from these mines are not limited strictly to the project's boundaries, they are exponential by nature. However, these benefits cannot be fully felt until Congress overhauls our permitting framework. It is unacceptable for projects to be held in a permitting purgatory for a decade while workers wait to see whether their highly anticipated role in the project will come to fruition.

We thank the committee for its steadfast commitment to responsibly addressing this issue and its continued support for the working men and women of the Building Trades.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sean McGarvey".

Sean McGarvey
President