

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000  
202/463-5310

July 10, 2013

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly supports H.R. 761 the "National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013." H.R. 761 would allow for the efficient development of, and access to, domestic strategic and critical mineral resources that are essential to our national security as well as our manufacturing and economic security.

H.R. 761 would streamline the permitting process for mineral development by coordinating the actions of federal, state, local, and tribal agencies to reduce red tape while protecting the environmental review process. The United States has vast reserves of strategic and critical mineral resources that are essential to our members who manufacture products from cell phones and electric cars, to life saving medical devices and satellites.

Of the 25 top mining countries, according to the Behre Dolbear Group's annual *Ranking of Countries for Mining Investment Where "Not to Invest,"* the United States is tied with Papua New Guinea for having the most mining permitting delays. As a result, the United States remains a major importer of strategic and critical minerals, despite having vast reserves, and has become increasingly dependent upon foreign sources for these minerals. H.R. 761 would reduce permitting delays while protecting the environment which would in turn increase domestic production of these much needed minerals.

The Chamber strongly supports H.R. 761.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten