



National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013 (H.R. 761)

Issue Details:

The United States needs to define a national policy to assure domestic availability of minerals essential for our nation's economic well-being, security, and global economic competitiveness.

H.R. 761 defines strategic and critical minerals as those that are necessary:

- For national defense and security requirements;
- For the nation's energy infrastructure including pipelines, refining capacity, electrical power generation and transmission, and renewable energy production;
- To support domestic manufacturing, agriculture, housing, telecommunications, healthcare and transportation infrastructure; and
- For the nation's economic security and balance of trade.

The bill outlines the responsibilities of the lead agency issuing the mineral exploration or mining permit. That agency shall appoint a project lead who shall:

- Coordinate and consult with other agencies, project proponents, and contractors to ensure that agencies minimize delays;
- Set and adhere to timelines and schedules for completion of reviews; and
- Set clear permitting goals and track progress against those goals.

The bill requires agencies to reduce permitting delays by:

- Limiting the time period for permit review processes to 30 months unless signatories to the permitting timeline agree to an extension;
- Address the bureaucratic delays associated with agency review of NEPA notices by delegating the activity to state offices and limiting reviews to 30 days; and
- Reduce delays posed by litigation over permitting decisions by requiring challenges to be filed within 60 days of the final agency action.

WMC's Position:

Women's Mining Coalition supports the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013 (H.R. 761) and believes that this bill will provide high paying, long term employment for many Americans, while also providing world-respected environmental management practices and implementation.

**The members of Women's Mining Coalition
ask that you join us in supporting H.R. 761.**

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