

July 23, 2012

Chairman Bingaman and Ranking Member Murkowski
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Bingaman and Ranking Member Murkowski:

As researchers, manufacturers, consumers, and developers of products and technologies that rely upon critical minerals, as well as producers of these materials, we join to thank you for advancing a bipartisan, substitute amendment to the “Critical Minerals Policy Act” (S. 1113). We wish to express our appreciation for the thoughtful and comprehensive manner in which you have worked to address issues in this important area.

Critical minerals are essential to the clean energy, defense, agricultural, academic, electronics, financial, and medical sectors, among others. Our organizations, like you, understand the strategic importance of these materials and are committed to addressing threats to the reliability and affordability of supplies. Together, we represent more than 450,000 scientists as well as tens of thousands of miners, processors, scientists, manufacturers and other industries across the country concerned about the entire supply chain serving the nation’s needs.

We believe the substitute amendment to S. 1113 represents a vital step towards addressing the critical minerals challenges we face. We applaud your work to address all aspects of the supply chain – from surveys and production to research and recycling – and, in particular, to see that additional critical mineral supplies can be brought to market as efficiently as possible, while also respecting our nation’s deeply held environmental values.

Too often bills similar to this are written, introduced, and forgotten. It is for this reason that we respectfully urge you to both schedule a mark-up of the legislation in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and to bring it to the floor of the U.S. Senate before this session of Congress ends. The critical mineral challenges we face are pressing, and failure to address them could very well jeopardize the nation’s ability to compete and innovate in a 21st century economy.

We share your commitment to this issue and look forward to the passage of critical minerals legislation.

Sincerely,

Alaska Miners Association
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
American Chemical Society
American Foundry Society
American Geophysical Union
American Geosciences Institute
American Institute of Physics
American Resources Action Network
APS Physics
Electron Energy Corporation
Federation of Materials Societies
The Fertilizer Institute
FMC Corporation

The Geological Society of America
Great Western Technologies, Inc.
Hoosier Magnetics, Inc.
Industrial Minerals Association North America
Intrepid Potash Inc.
Kinross Gold U.S.A., Inc.
Materials Research Society
The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society
Molycorp, Inc.
National Association of Manufacturers
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
Northwest Mining Association
Rare Element Resources, Ltd.

Society for Mining, Metallurgy, &
Exploration
Strategic Materials Advisory Council
Technology Metals Research
Thomas & Skinner, Inc.
U.S. Rare Earths
Ucore Rare Metals
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Magnetic Materials Association
Utah Mining Association
Western Business Roundtable
Western Lithium Corporation

cc: The Honorable Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510