

Minerals Science and Information Coalition

THE COALITION

A broad-based group of minerals and materials interests has united to advocate for reinvigorated minerals science and information functions in the federal government. Coalition members include trade associations, professional societies, and groups representing the extractive industries; geoscience, physical, chemical, and material science professionals; processors, manufacturers, and other mineral and material supply-chain users; state government; and other consumers of federal minerals science and information.

GOALS

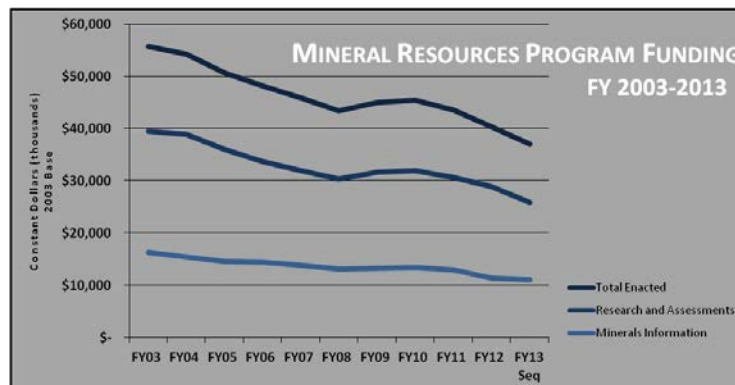
The Coalition asks Congress and the administration to increase funding and support for federal minerals research, information gathering, analysis, and forecasting to sustain economic prosperity and ensure national security.

RATIONALE

Reliable supplies of mineral resources underpin the U.S. economy and national security. Recent threats to the supply of rare earth elements and helium highlight our vulnerability to disruptions in the flow of raw materials. To safeguard its supply chains and maintain a competitive position in the global economy, U.S. industry must have accurate, timely information on the supply of, demand for, and flow of all minerals and materials. Policy makers and decision makers in industry must understand the mineral resources of the nation and their economic and environmental characteristics. Nevertheless,

- Federal programs in minerals science, research, information, data collection and analysis have been severely weakened. Funding for the U.S. Geological Survey's Mineral Resources Program, the only primary source for minerals science and information, has been cut by 30% in constant dollar terms over the last decade (Fig. 1).
- The U.S. government has no capacity to forecast future trends in the supply of and demand for minerals and thus is unable to anticipate and mitigate disruptions in supply chains.

Fig. 1: U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MINERALS FUNDING



Source: USGS