

Minerals Science and Information Coalition

February 23, 2015

Dr. Suzette Kimball  
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey  
Directors Office  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Mail Stop 100  
Reston, VA, 20192-000

Dear Dr. Kimball:

The Minerals Science and Information Coalition (MSIC) would like to express support for the current initiatives and activities of the National Minerals Information Center (NMIC) as laid out by the January 22, 2015 letter from Director Steven M. Fortier to MSIC.

MSIC is a broad-based alliance of organizations that represent all stages of the supply chain. Importantly, the coalition supports federal investments in minerals science and research. For this reason, MSIC commends the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and NMIC for work as the primary national source of minerals science and information. The NMIC initiatives and activities listed for 2015 underscore the usefulness of minerals science and information to every sector of our national and global economy.

The coalition is very interested in the potential, natural extension of NMIC's current work on minerals forecasting. The new Mineral Commodity Criticality Assessment and Early Warning Project shows important movement towards more proactive minerals science and information analyses. The ability to anticipate potential supply chain disruptions is important to safeguarding uninterrupted access to the minerals necessary for our economic and national wellbeing. Combining accurate and timely information with supply and demand forecasting will allow for a more comprehensive understanding of supply chain vulnerabilities. Providing new money to develop comprehensive minerals supply forecasting at USGS is a precursory necessity to address the nation's abiding dependence on minerals.

The addition of several different studies to NMIC's annual work products demonstrates an impressive understanding of the impact timely and accurate information can have on both the private and public sectors. Commonsense initiatives such as the following will help guide mineral development and usage: fact sheets on conflict minerals; studies on the impact of the Ebola outbreak on the mining and processing industry; production and consumption estimates for hydraulic fracturing sand in the U.S.; a report on trends in Cuba's mining and petroleum extraction industries; historical global statistics for mineral commodities; and a mineral commodity criticality assessment and early warning project.

The work of NMIC under the leadership of the USGS is key to the responsible development and consumption of minerals and raw materials that underpin every sector of the economy. MSIC supports NMIC's 2015 initiatives and urges development of USGS's mineral forecasting capabilities.

Sincerely,

American Chemical Society  
American Exploration & Mining Association  
American Geosciences Institute  
American Physical Society

Minerals Science and Information Coalition

Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey of Pennsylvania  
The Fertilizer Institute  
Geological Society of America  
Industrial Minerals Association – North America  
Materials Research Society  
Mining and Metallurgical Society of America  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
Society of Economic Geologists  
Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc.

Cc: The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Ms. Jennifer Gimbel  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Dr. Dan Hayba  
Acting Associate Director, Energy and Minerals, and Environmental Health  
U.S. Geological Survey

Dr. Larry Meinert  
Program Coordinator, Mineral Resources  
U.S. Geological Survey

Dr. David Russ  
Regional Director, Northeast  
U.S. Geological Survey

Dr. Steven Fortier  
Director, National Minerals Information Center  
U.S. Geological Survey

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