Leading the World in Resources, Trailing the Competition in Access

U.S. MINE PERMITTING DELAYS

Minerals and metals provide key components to consumer and industrial technologies, and play a critical role in America’s national security through their use in the development and manufacture of military equipment.

Consistent with recommendations made by the National Academies of Sciences, Council on Environmental Quality and the President’s Job Council, legislation to address permitting delays and America’s minerals needs should:

• Consider mines that provide minerals essential for our economic and defense needs as “infrastructure projects,” reducing the review and permitting timeframes.

• Facilitate a timely permitting process for mineral exploration and mine development projects by clearly defining the responsibilities of a lead agency to include the establishment of binding timeframes, coordination with other agencies, and reliance on existing data and reviews.

• Limit the total review process to 30 months, unless signatories to the permitting timeline agree to an extension.

• Address the bureaucratic delays associated with agency review of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) notices by delegating the activity to state offices and limiting reviews to 30 days.

• Require challenges to permitting decisions to be filed within 60 days.

1 Behre Dolbear, the international consulting firm that advises mining companies globally.
2 Morning Consult Polling for National Mining Association, N=2,001 registered voters, August 4-5, 2016