America's Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery Depends on Mining

Mining provides the raw materials required for nearly every industry and consumer product, feeding our manufacturing, technology, transportation, medical, defense and energy supply chains. From foundations to roofs, power plants to wind farms, roads and bridges to communications grids and data storage centers — America’s energy and infrastructure projects begin with mining.

Minerals such as copper, lithium, silver, nickel and aluminum are critical inputs to infrastructure, renewable energy, electric vehicles and digital technology. As these sectors of the economy grow, mineral demands will increase exponentially. To ensure our economic recovery, we must address our mineral import reliance and the vulnerabilities that exist in our mineral supply chains. Securing U.S. supply chains can boost the U.S. economy and create high-paying jobs. And coal provides both affordable and reliable energy Americans need as they get back to work, and supports steelmaking to boost infrastructure projects.

How can policymakers better support responsible mining?

- Streamline the permitting process to avoid duplication among federal and state agencies, set and adhere to timelines and schedules for completion of the permitting process, track progress to provide accountability, ensure continued access for operations, and incentivize domestic exploration and production.

- Maintain mining’s inclusion as a Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41) covered sector.

- As part of “Buy American” efforts, require federal agencies to acquire minerals first from within the U.S.

- Incentivize the further development and deployment of carbon capture technologies to support U.S. and global emissions reductions.

- Ensure electricity markets appropriately value balance and fuel security to ensure affordability and reliability for all Americans.

- Ensure fees, taxes and other industry payments accurately reflect today’s market.

88% of voters believe it is important for policymakers to focus on supporting responsible domestic mining here in the U.S. to create American jobs.