

Rich Nolan
President & CEO

September 3, 2025

The Honorable Pete Stauber
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Yassamin Ansari
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Stauber and Ranking Member Ansari:

On behalf of the National Mining Association, I write in support of several pieces of legislation being considered at today's hearing. The bills referenced below share the goal of promoting domestic energy and mineral development to meet our country's energy, economic and national security.

A recent report by S&P Global found that it takes an average of 29 years to bring a mine online in the U.S.¹ At a time when energy and mineral demand is soaring, we need federal policies that not only strengthen these supply chains but provide the clarity and regulatory certainty the mining industry depends on to make generational investments. We especially support:

- Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2025 (H.R. 1366) – This bipartisan legislation addresses an issue resulting from the erroneous 2022 *Center for Biological Diversity et al. v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service et al.* court decision by providing needed certainty for hardrock mining companies operating on federal lands. It does this by creating a new category of mill sites that ensures operators have the ability to use federal lands, whether mineral or non-mineral in character, for activities ancillary to mining.
- Combatting Obstruction Against Leasing (COAL) Act of 2025 (H.R. 280) – This legislation helps to secure reliable and affordable domestically produced energy by codifying key aspects of President Trump's executive order on coal (E.O. 14261) and upholding federal obligations under the Mineral Leasing Act.

¹ S&P Global, "United States Ranks Next to Last in Development Time for New Mines that Produce Critical Minerals for Energy Transition," July 18, 2024. <https://press.spglobal.com/2024-07-18-United-States-Ranks-Next-to-Last-in-Development-Time-for-New-Mines-that-Produce-Critical-Minerals-for-Energy-Transition,-S-P-Global-Finds>

- Streamlining NEPA for Coal Act (H.R. 4068) – Similar to H.R. 280, this legislation codifies aspects of E.O. 14261 related to categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act to expand the production and export of U.S. coal.
- Codification of Trump Executive Orders on Hardrock Mining (H.R. 4090) – This legislation codifies key provisions of President Trump’s executive orders related to domestic hardrock mining to make the permitting process more efficient, provide greater access to U.S. mineral endowment on federal lands, and reduce regulatory burdens on responsible mineral development.

These bills are an important step forward to addressing America’s supply chain insecurity and will enhance America’s economic and strategic competitiveness. As you work to improve mineral supply chain security while maintaining our world-leading safety and environmental standards, I urge your support these important pieces of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rich Nolan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rich Nolan