



Interstate Mining Compact Commission

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GREGORY E. CONRAD

July 1, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader, U.S. House of
Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) submits this letter to express support for critical minerals legislation S. 1600 and H.R. 1063 and to state our appreciation for progress made by you and your colleagues in advancing the important goals the legislation represents.

IMCC is a multi-state governmental agency representing the natural resource and related environmental protection interest of its 26 member states. The Commission is comprised of representatives from the member states' respective Departments of Natural Resources or Environmental Protection, who are duly appointed by their Governors. As such, the member states of IMCC have a vital interest in the development of minerals, particularly those of strategic and critical importance to the United States.

One of the primary goals of our member state regulators is to ensure that our states' and thus our Nation's mineral wealth is developed in a manner that fosters economic benefits while diligently maintaining environmental responsibility. In the face of growing "resource nationalism" abroad, it is crucial that the US take steps to account for, protect, and further bolster domestic sources of critical minerals. The US should endeavor to realize the immense benefits potentially derived from conscientious development of our Nation's rich supply of mineral resources, both on state and federal lands. IMCC believes critical minerals legislation to be a significant step in the right direction.

As primary regulators of mineral production activity within their borders, designing efficient but responsible permitting processes is a top priority for our member states. Parallel permitting requirements convolute supply chains, reducing our Nation's access to domestic sources of vitally important natural resources to the ultimate detriment of national resource

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security. Arriving at the optimal design for these often interrelated permitting process is contingent on real and frequent collaboration between state and federal agencies. IMCC is therefore particularly supportive of provisions of the proposed critical minerals bills designed to enhance this vitally important coordination and to streamline permitting through elimination of unnecessary permitting requirements. Improvement of permitting processes for critical minerals will in turn contribute to the ultimate goal of critical minerals legislation: to reestablish the United States' domestic supply of these resources, which are important to our national and economic security.

IMCC believes that critical minerals legislation provides an excellent opportunity to pursue these important and patently beneficial goals and encourages congressional leadership to continue advancing the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gregory E. Conrad". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "d".

Gregory E. Conrad
Executive Director