



**National Association of Home Builders**

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**Government Affairs**

James W. Tobin III  
Senior Vice President & Chief Lobbyist

September 17, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

On behalf of the more than 140,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), I write to express NAHB's strong support for H.R. 761, the *National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act*. NAHB commends Rep. Amodei for introducing this very important legislation, which will allow for more efficient development of domestic sources of strategic and critical minerals, many of which are critical to the building material supply chain.

H.R. 761 will modernize the United States' permitting regime, providing for more sustainable and competitive resources for America's home builders. As our industry is starting to recover, builders are already seeing price increases and shortages in many building supplies. Gypsum prices continue to be one of the main drivers for residential construction cost increases in 2012, rising 32 percent above the most recent low in February of 2011. Approximately 90% of gypsum is used in the manufacture of wallboard for residential and non-residential building applications. A further 5% is used as an additive in cement production.

By streamlining the permitting process and attracting investment in domestic mining of critical minerals, H.R. 761 will ultimately provide consumers with more affordable housing through a wider variety of choices in building materials. For these reasons, NAHB strongly urges the House of Representatives to support Rep. Amodei's *National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act*.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James W. Tobin III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James W. Tobin III