



**RICH NOLAN**  
*President & CEO*

September 2, 2021

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman:

I am writing concerning the upcoming markup in the House Natural Resources Committee on the committee's reconciliation bill. The National Mining Association's (NMA) hardrock members strongly oppose the many partisan, anti-mining provisions included in the committee's reconciliation bill text. The inclusion of these new policy provisions in a reconciliation bill is clearly the wrong place for bi-partisan and thoughtful consideration.

The provisions included in the reconciliation bill create new excessive royalties and additional taxes. On top of those new royalties and taxes, new withdrawals limit Congressionally approved new domestic production and will jeopardize the viability of the U.S. mining industry at a time when the metals and minerals we produce domestically are so critical to President Biden's Made in America agenda and the special emphasis he has put on securing domestic mineral supply chains.

These proposals are counterproductive to reshoring essential supply chains, reducing our alarming mineral import overreliance and even building the materials industrial base needed to underpin new technologies and innovation to which U.S. mineral production is key to any energy transition and any electric vehicle revolution. The result of this reconciliation bill would only deepen U.S. mineral import reliance on geopolitical rivals that do not share our values on environmental or labor standards.

It continues to be our guiding principle to work with the committee to find a compromise that supports the competitiveness of the domestic mining industry. Currently, U.S. mine operations pay nearly half of their operations in taxes and fees. Additional royalties and fees must be carefully negotiated to maintain U.S. competitiveness and not drive investments in mineral exploration projects offshore and exacerbate our mineral import dependence.

The NMA remains committed to work with you to promote a viable domestic mining industry, address the nation's reliance on foreign minerals, and provide appropriate and fair return to the American public. However, these objectives are lacking in the committee's reconciliation bill text. I believe there remains an opportunity to work in a bipartisan fashion to prioritize policies, including modernization of the minerals permitting process, to enable development of the metals and minerals that will allow our nation to achieve greater innovation, supply chain security and economic growth, all while protecting the environment.

Sincerely,

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

Rich Nolan