

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Joe Biden  
President  
United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

As you know, the United States needs resilient, diverse, and secure mineral supply chains to ensure our economic prosperity and national security. This issue is something on which we can find bipartisan agreement and should be able to work together to promote for the benefit of our nation and our own domestic mineral security.

Yet, as leaders in American Natural Resource policy, we were deeply disappointed when your Executive Order on “America’s Supply Chains” failed to include any reference to the Department of the Interior (DOI) or the important role of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in securing domestic mineral supplies. As the nation’s largest land manager, DOI is best positioned to leverage our vast federal lands to produce more of the minerals we need as a nation for our security and for a more electrified future. In addition, the USGS knows where many of our minerals are and where in the production stage we need assistance to get the minerals produced. This failure means the effort created by the Executive Order will clearly be incomplete.

In fact, DOI and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) have already moved our nation backward in ongoing efforts to produce more minerals in the United States. One of the first actions by USDA was to withdraw a critical environmental review for a copper mine which could supply America with 25% of our future copper needs for generations. In addition, the United States Forest Service is considering withdrawing leases for copper-nickel projects in Minnesota that could supply important cobalt and other minerals for which we are completely foreign dependent.

Overly broad Secretarial Orders from the Department stopping oil and gas were applied to minerals exploration which resulted in unnecessary costs and delays to miners working to produce rare earth minerals. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is working to undo a permitted lithium mine in Nevada which was approved under the last Administration. In Alaska, the BLM has withdrawn more than ten million acres of land from mineral exploration, cutting off our ability to explore for the minerals we need as a nation. Taken together, these efforts are hurting our national security and clearly

disregard the priority of securing domestic supply chains which was shown in your Executive Order.

Finally, it has become clear that that you are preparing to sacrifice American mining jobs to Canada to make up for the damage caused by your deeply misguided Keystone Pipeline decision. News reports from the March 18<sup>th</sup> closed door secret meetings held by the Department of Commerce imply that you are preparing to provide Canadian mining companies with incentives to open and operate more mines to supply America with minerals.

That this Administration, through the Department of Commerce, is working to trade the jobs of American miners, steelworkers, and laborers to Canada to make up for a decision you made that killed thousands of American pipefitting and welding jobs and tens of thousands of Canadian oil and gas jobs is unacceptable. American miners and American mineral security should not be used as tools to be traded away to make up for your disastrous foreign policy decisions. American mining and smelting jobs are some of the highest paying jobs in our nation and your Administration should be fighting to create more of these jobs domestically, not using taxpayer resources to encourage Canada to steal our jobs and the opportunity they present to America. It makes no sense to actively kill mining jobs in Minnesota, Arizona, and Alaska while turning to Canada and asking them to open mines to fill the gaps.

Your Executive Order recognized how important mineral security is to our nation, and we call on you now to have confidence in the American worker and the American environmental ethic to promote mining in America and direct your agencies to focus on making mining happen. Our environmental laws, mining regulations, and workers are the best in the world. Your Administration should recognize this and work to promote American mining and American miners. We stand ready to work with you to accomplish this goal in the years to come, but you must stop the ongoing efforts to short circuit this opportunity and trade our jobs away.



Paul A Gosar, D.D.S  
Member of Congress

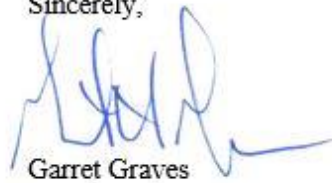


Bruce Westerman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources



Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



Garret Graves  
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress