



November 17, 2014

Governor Nikki Haley
South Carolina State House
1205 Pendleton St., First Floor
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

While U.S. manufacturing may be making a comeback, I would like to direct your attention to the findings from a SNL Metals & Mining study, *U.S. Mines to Market*, commissioned by the National Mining Association (NMA), which identifies a continuing threat to South Carolina's \$28.7 billion manufacturing industry.

The study tracks the minerals mined and refined in the United States, including those in South Carolina, through to their end-use in finished products. Key findings demonstrate the extent to which minerals produced in the United States feed the domestic manufacturing industry and influence the success of domestic manufacturing industries, including high-tech, automotive, national defense, energy and medical.

The study found that while the U.S. mining sector is positioned to support manufacturers' needs for greater sustainability and shorter supply chains, the permitting process for new minerals mines in the United States is inefficient and impedes investment. Despite steady growth in domestic manufacturing, a gross structural mismatch exists between mineral supply and demand, hindering U.S. competitiveness and the potential for growth in the mining and manufacturing sectors and in overall GDP.

The findings provide further support for commonsense policy actions, in South Carolina and in Washington, D.C., to increase utilization of our domestic minerals and metals in ways that benefit our national and local economies. As you may know, the U.S. House recently passed the bi-partisan "Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act" for the third time, and NMA is urging the U.S. Senate to take up similar legislation to foster U.S. competitiveness and innovation.

For your convenience, included with this letter is a hard copy of the full study results. I look forward to working with you to create policies that prioritize the responsible extraction of secure domestic mineral resources and ultimately ensure a more sustainable and resilient U.S. economy. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hal Quinn", written in a cursive style.

Hal Quinn
President and CEO
National Mining Association