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## NWMA Supports the Critical Minerals Policy Act of 2011

*S. 1113 intended to revitalize domestic critical minerals supply chain*

An abundant and affordable supply of domestic minerals is critical to America's future. On May 26, Sen. Lisa Murkowski and 18 co-sponsors introduced bipartisan legislation to address the lack of production of domestic minerals critical to clean energy technology, defense, health care-related applications and the entire U.S. economy. We strongly encourage your support for this important legislation.

The *Critical Minerals Policy Act of 2011* (S. 1113) seeks to revitalize the United States' critical minerals supply chain and reduce the nation's growing dependence on foreign suppliers by directing the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to establish a list of minerals critical to the U.S. economy and providing a comprehensive set of policies that will bolster critical mineral production, expand manufacturing, and promote recycling and alternatives - all while maintaining strong environmental protections.

The U.S. has become increasingly vulnerable and dependant on foreign sources of strategic and critical minerals and this vulnerability has serious national defense and economic consequences. According to the USGS, the U.S. is more than 50% import reliant for 43 critical minerals and 100% import reliant for 18 critical and strategic minerals despite being the third largest source of mineral wealth in the world.

*S. 1113 includes provisions related to:*

- ❖ **DESIGNATIONS** – Creates a process for designating minerals as critical based upon a review of potential supply restrictions and the importance of their use.
- ❖ **POLICY** – Articulates a statement of policy regarding presidential leadership on the critical minerals supply chain.
- ❖ **RESOURCES** – Seeks an updated assessment of critical mineral resources located in the United States, in coordination with state geologic surveys.
- ❖ **PERMITTING** – Establishes a working group to review permitting, quantify delays, assess environmental protections and recommend improvements. *The U.S. currently ranks last among the top 25 mineral producing countries in the world in terms of the time it takes to permit a mine.*
- ❖ **MANUFACTURING** – Facilitates memoranda of agreement between states and the federal government on coordinated permitting for manufacturing facilities.
- ❖ **RECYCLING AND ALTERNATIVES** – Authorizes research to promote the efficient use and recycling of critical minerals as well as alternatives to them.
- ❖ **ANALYSIS AND FORECASTING** – Builds upon existing capabilities to provide more forward-looking analyses of critical mineral supply chain trends.
- ❖ **EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE** – Provides workforce assessments, curriculum development, worker training and associated grant authorizations. *Within the next five years, more than 60% of BLM and USFS employees responsible for the respective locatable minerals programs will retire or be eligible for retirement.*
- ❖ **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION** – Reaffirms interagency coordination to share critical mineral information and practices via diplomatic channels.