



Mining and Metallurgical Society of America

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December 21, 2016

President Elect Donald J Trump

Trump Tower, 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10022

RE: Importance of a Strong Minerals Industry to the Safety and Security of the United States

Dear President-elect Trump,

The Mining and Metallurgical Society of America was established in 1908 by the leading mining executives of that time. Its purpose was to act as an adviser to the United States Congress as related to mining matters. MMSA was instrumental in the formation of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, and through the 1980s it continued to work with the Bureau until it was dissolved. MMSA continues to this day to provide advice and white papers on specific issues pertinent to the development of our country's mineral resources.

As president of MMSA, I have been asked by our members to reach out and advise you, and your team, of a major concern regarding the strategic interests of our country. That issue is our country's entire dependence on potential adversaries for certain critical minerals necessary to assure our ability to defend ourselves in the event a conflict arises. Principal among these minerals are Rare Earths, Antimony, and Platinum Group Metals.

A recent episode of CBS 60 minutes noted that almost 1,000 pounds of rare earth metals are used in each of our F-35 planes; aircraft that are planned to be the future of the Air Force, the Navy, and the Marines. Every pound of the rare earth metals in the F-35 comes from China. While we have rare earth deposits in this country, when one comes into production, China cuts the price, forcing them out of business. China has previously cut off supplies of rare earths to our country as well as Japan when in a dispute over issues it deems important.

Another commodity is antimony which the Department of Defense considers among its most critical needs as it is used as hardener for ordnance. China accounts for more than 90% of the world's supply and controls the market for this commodity. There is not a single antimony mine in this country; not because we have no antimony, but because of China's aggressive pricing.

Platinum group metals are essential for catalysts in the petroleum industry as well as for automobile emissions. Russia is a major supplier of this country's needs. The sole mine in this country used to be owned by the Russian company Norilsk and has now come under the control of a South African firm.

Food of course is a critical need for human survival. Critical to food production is the use of mineral resources in the production of fertilizer, and feed supplements allowing US farmers to feed our nation and others. To assure we have a sufficient supply we provide financial support for various crops. Our government also provides support to less essential priorities such as ethanol, as well as to the solar and wind energy companies. The potential inability to be unable to defend or feed ourselves and our allies due to the neglect and opposition to mineral development is a situation that must be avoided.

MMSA welcomes the opportunity to work with your administration in assuring that our great country has the ability to supply itself with the necessary mineral resources for its survival. We are hopeful that we will have the chance to do this once your administration is fully established.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B J Guarnera".

Bernard J. Guarnera
President – MMSA