

June 4, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

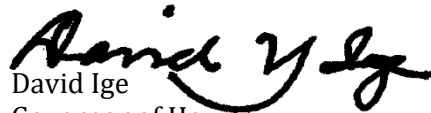
Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Manchin:

Thank you for introducing the American Mineral Security Act ([S. 1317](#)). A robust domestic mineral supply is increasingly important due to growing U.S. demand and reliance on foreign sources. Obtaining information about and improving access to domestic mineral resources will strengthen our economy and national security.

Western Governors support measures to identify domestic critical mineral resources and address permitting delays without reducing environmental or other protections, as described in WGA Policy Resolution [2018-09](#), *National Minerals Policy*. In addition, Governors appreciate the bill's direction to the U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture to engage in early and active consultation with states regarding federal authorizations pertaining to critical minerals. As the bill states, such consultation can help avoid conflicts and duplication, resolve concerns, and provide for concurrent reviews.

Western Governors look forward to working with the Committee to improve access to domestic minerals. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



David Ige
Governor of Hawaii
Chair, WGA



Doug Burgum
Governor of North Dakota
Vice Chair, WGA