

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2008

Dear Representative:

We would like to extend you this invitation to join the Congressional Mining Caucus. Through your participation, you will demonstrate the vital role of minerals in the U.S. economy and way of life. What do minerals mean in practical terms to you the Member, and your district? It's stuff you use everyday from fingernail clippers to HDTV's when watching the Presidential debates. It's the 43 separate and distinct metals in each Blackberry used when you, other Members, and your staff communicate daily. It's the materials used in the Air Force's fighters that patrol the DC skies at night when you're tucked into your bed with its metal head and foot boards. It's even your wooden bed cut by metal circular saws or turned on metal lathes, and fastened with metal bolts.

Mining is a significant part of the basic economic foundation of every region of the United States. In 2006, the USGS estimated that the domestic mining industries produced \$64.4 billion worth of raw mineral commodities. These raw mineral products were combined with domestically recycled scrap worth \$18 billion and turned into processed mineral materials worth an estimated \$542 billion. In turn, the nation's major domestic industries used these processed mineral materials and an additional \$64 billion of imported materials to produce things that added about \$2.13 trillion to our nation's gross domestic product of \$13.20 trillion.

Roughly one-sixth of the nation's GDP is attributable in some way to minerals and mining. While the contribution to the GDP is important, even more important to us as Members are the 1.38 million American men and women employed in both the mining industries and the primary industries that use processed mineral products to produce the things whose value in 2006 amounted to that one-sixth of the nation's GDP. These jobs are among the best paying in the domestic economy and provide communities across the nation with steady economic growth.

The mining industry provides economic and national security benefits to all Americans while setting the world standard for health, safety, environmental remediation and reclamation. Unfortunately, most Americans are unaware of the importance of today's modern mining industry, and many of our congressional colleagues and their staffs do not appreciate the full impact of government policies on mining and mining jobs. The Congressional Mining Caucus will hold meetings and otherwise serve as a resource during the legislative session to educate members and staff on the issues facing everyone in the mining industry and the primary mineral processing industries.

These issues are as diverse as the industry and cover broad array of jurisdictional matters ranging from finance, to taxation, environment, international trade, domestic commerce, workforce, education, business size, law, infrastructure, agriculture and even to national defense. No doubt you have noticed that this listing of issues is in addition to those matters that we most

often relate to actual mining and mineral processing. Without the careful consideration of these issues, however, this basic industry would cease to exist to the detriment of our nation.

For us to develop constructive federal policies for the mining and mineral processing industries that will benefit the users of the industry's products you and your staff must be provided with a ready source of information and education about the mining industry and its importance to all Americans. Only by crafting sound federal policies will this vital industry continue to produce mineral resources for the use and benefit of your constituents and all Americans. By joining with us you can show everyone that you are concerned about the health of this most basic of our industries.

To join the Congressional Mining Caucus, please contact Neeta Bidwai in Representative Jim Matheson's office at 225-3011 or Matthew Hite in Representative Bill Sali's office at 225-6611. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



JIM MATHESON
Member of Congress



BILL SALI
Member of Congress