



August 29, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On January 8, 2018, President Trump submitted the nomination of Marco Rajkovich to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission (the “Commission”). His nomination was favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on March 14, 2018, and was placed on the Senate’s Executive Calendar that same day. The Industrial Minerals Association – North America (IMA-NA) supports this nomination and urges Mr. Rajkovich’s speedy confirmation by the Senate. It is this latter matter that has proven problematic and the stakes are about to be raised.

As of August 30, 2018, the terms of Commissioners William Althen and Robert Cohen, Jr., expire. As a result, the Commission will lack a quorum of members (it will have only two of its five members) and therefore will be without authority to take substantive actions in any of the cases pending before it until at least one additional Commissioner is both nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. We are halfway to that goal with the President’s nomination of Mr. Rajkovich. IMA-NA urges the Senate to move Mr. Rajkovich’s nomination forward.

IMA-NA has requested that the President identify and nominate qualified individuals to bring the Commission to its five-member complement. A fully functioning Commission is critical to ensuring the safety and health of our Nation’s miners as well as furthering a vibrant, appropriately regulated mining industry. As such, the Commission serves both miners and mine operators.

IMA-NA looks forward to working with you and your Senate colleagues on policies that support growth across the entire U.S. economy. Mine safety and health is but one of them.

Sincerely,

Mark G. Ellis
President

IMA-NA was formed in April 2002 and represents mineral producer members and associate members providing goods and services to the industrial minerals industry. Membership is comprised of companies that are leaders in the ball clay, barite, bentonite, borates, calcium carbonate, diatomite, feldspar, industrial sand, kaolin, soda ash (trona), talc, wollastonite and other industrial minerals industries. IMA-NA is the principal trade association representing the industrial minerals industry in North America.