

Minerals Science and Information Coalition

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Risch
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Murkowski, Barrasso, Risch, and Cassidy:

The undersigned members of the Minerals Science and Information Coalition thank you for urging President Trump to nominate an economic geologist to be the new Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Your letter demonstrates both insight and appreciation for the vitally important work of USGS and the potential value of stewardship under an economic geologist.

The **Minerals Science and Information Coalition** (MSIC) is a broad-based alliance of minerals and materials interests groups that advocates for reinvigorated minerals science and information functions in the federal government. Our group is comprised of trade associations, scientific and professional societies, representatives of the extractive industries, processors, manufacturers, mineral and material supply-chain users, and other consumers of federal minerals science and information.

Minerals and mineral materials are part of virtually all of the products we daily use. They are the raw materials for manufacturing processes or are end products in themselves. Buildings, roads and civic infrastructure projects contain minerals. Mineral products, such as glass, plastics, and metals are vital for manufacturing products that make up our daily lives: automobiles, mobile phones, and computers. They are critical ingredients in specialized applications for national defense and energy technologies. The mining industry underpins the United States' high standard of living. Every sector of industry relies upon minerals to generate their end products. A stable and reliable mineral supply chain is critical for the continued growth and success of our economy.

As noted in your letter, federal funding for USGS has not been prioritized for some time, resulting in a lack of the resources necessary to proactively monitor our national mineral reserves. The USGS Minerals Resources Program (MRP) accounts for the majority of federal minerals science work, providing invaluable information to industry leaders, government

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officials, members of the scientific community, and the general public. Despite our reliance on the work of MRP, its funding has been consistently cut for the last 30 years. MSIC supports the restoration and eventual increase of MRP funding levels and applauds you for drawing attention to the current lack of investment.

The Mineral Science and Information Coalition thanks you for understanding and valuing the role USGS and minerals science play in our economic and national security. We believe USGS would benefit from the leadership of an economic geologist and support this first step of federal reinvestment and funding support in minerals science. MSIC looks forward to working with you to continue promoting greater understanding of the importance of USGS's programs to our country.

Sincerely,
American Exploration and Mining Association
American Geosciences Institute
Associated Equipment Distributors
Industrial Minerals Association – North America
International Diatomite Producers Association
Mining and Metallurgical Society of America
National Industrial Sand Association
National Mining Association
National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association
Society of Economic Geologists

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