



HAL QUINN
President & CEO

February 3, 2017

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The National Mining Association (NMA) urges you to vote in support of S.J. Res. 15, the joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act introduced by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) to stop the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Planning 2.0 Rule. NMA is a national trade association representing the producers of most of America's coal, metals, industrial and agricultural minerals; the manufacturers of mining and mineral processing machinery, equipment and supplies; and the engineering and consulting firms, financial institutions and other firms serving the mining industry. Many of NMA's members conduct mining activities on federal lands managed by BLM and therefore, are directly impacted by BLM's rule.

Although the rule stated purpose is to revise the cumbersome procedures used to prepare, revise, or amend land use plans pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), it does so in a fashion that impedes transparency and breeds uncertainty. During the comment period for the proposed rule, NMA submitted comments highlighting serious problems with the proposed changes. Unfortunately, the final rule retained the same general framework and goals as the proposed rule, leaving most of our concerns unaddressed.

In particular, NMA remains troubled by numerous aspects of the final rule including the uncertainty created by the potentially unreliable landscape scale planning boundaries; ambiguity in planning decision authority; reduced timeframes for public comment; lowered level of scientific integrity for the types of information that would be considered in developing plans and consideration of potentially biased and unreliable information; and the characterization of certain land uses as higher priority than others despite the BLM's multiple use management mandate under FLPMA.

NMA believes that BLM's Final Rule on Resource Management Planning is not designed to achieve the goals of improving the efficiency and timeliness of the land use planning process and would actually add to the complexity of the process, making it

February 3, 2017
Page Two

unworkable. As NMA stated in its public comments, BLM should have withdrawn the proposed rule and evaluated other alternatives including firm timelines for improving the existing planning process.

Swift and decisive action on BLM's rule is necessary in order to avert further impacts from these unfortunate policies. NMA urges you to vote in support of the Murkowski joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act to stop the BLM Planning 2.0 rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hal Quinn", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hal Quinn