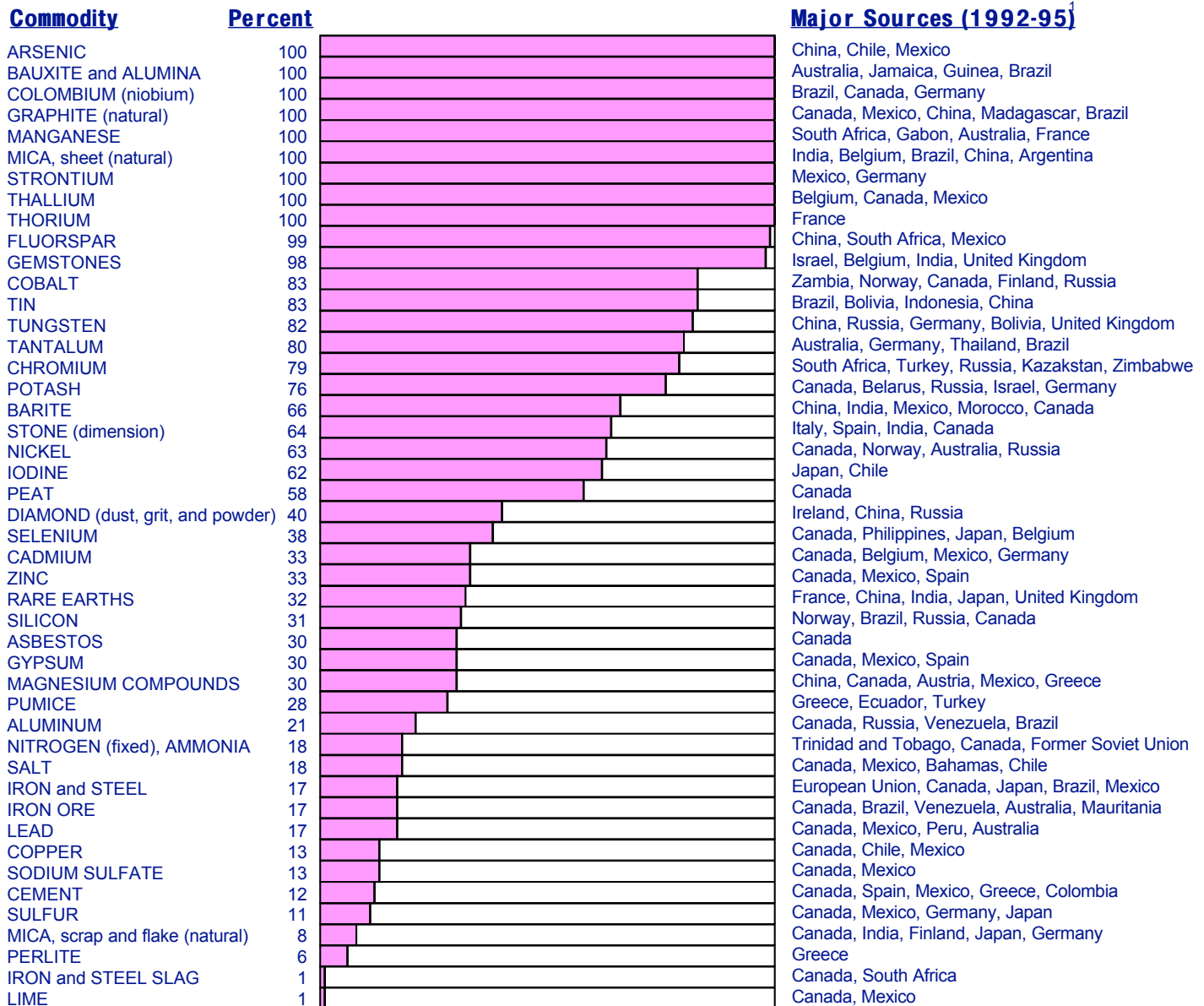


# 1996 U.S. NET IMPORT RELIANCE FOR SELECTED NONFUEL MINERAL MATERIALS



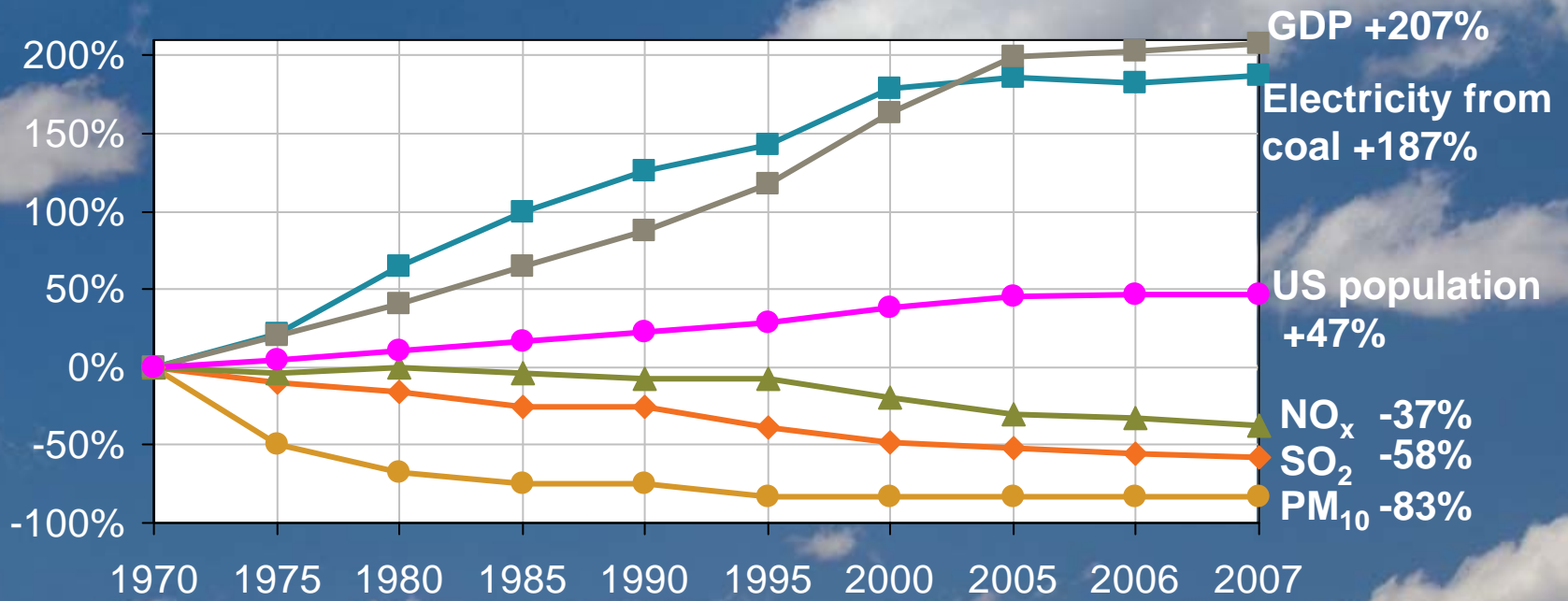
<sup>1</sup> In descending order of importance

Additional commodities for which there is some import dependency include:

Antimony	China, Bolivia, Mexico, South Africa
Bismuth	Mexico, Belgium, China, United Kingdom
Gallium	France, Russia, Germany, Hungary
Germanium	China, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Russia, Belgium
Ilmenite	South Africa, Australia, Canada
Indium	Canada, France, Russia, Italy
Kyanite	South Africa
Mercury	Russia, Canada, Kyrgyzstan, Germany

Platinum	South Africa, United Kingdom, Russia, Germany, Belgium
Rhenium	Chile, Germany, Sweden
Rutile	Australia, South Africa, Sierra Leone
Silver	Mexico, Canada, Peru, Chile
Titanium (sponge)	Russia, Japan, China, Ukraine
Vanadium	South Africa, Canada, Russia, Mexico
Vermiculite	South Africa
Zirconium	Australia, South Africa

# Since 1970, Coal has been used in increasingly Clean Ways in the United States



- Higher efficiency rates and **carbon capture technologies** create opportunities for reducing carbon intensity as well



## **Maintain State Control over State and Local Water Resources**

Producing the coal, metals and minerals that are critical to America's economy and national security takes an extraordinary amount of time, money and planning. Obtaining the necessary permits in a timely manner is critical to the success of mining projects and the rural communities they support. Our ability to compete in today's worldwide mineral and energy markets in large part depends on an efficient regulatory program.

The "America's Commitment to Clean Water Act" (H.R. 5088) sponsored by Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN) and the similar "Clean Water Restoration Act" (S. 787) sponsored by Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI) in the Senate, expands federal jurisdiction to areas never before considered within the purview of the federal government. Expanding the scope of federal waters will result in a more encumbered and overly burdened Clean Water Act (CWA) permitting program.

Consequently, the Women's Mining Coalition members, and the American public, have a strong interest in maintaining the important federal-state balance struck by the original CWA.

Any legislative effort to clarify the scope of the CWA should, at a minimum, be based on the following principles:

- Maintain the distinction between federal and state waters by retaining the term "navigable waters."
- Adhere to the fundamental principle that states retain primary jurisdiction over water and land use within their individual boundaries.
- Clarify jurisdiction without expanding it. Jurisdiction should be clear, unambiguous, and practical.
- Define important terms used in the CWA. Since passage of the CWA in 1972, the regulated community, and even the Supreme Court, has requested definitions of key terms like "tributary," "adjacent," "impoundment," and "traditional navigable waters."
- Avoid creating more confusion and encumbrances.

**WMC urges members of Congress to oppose H.R. 5088 and S. 787. WMC supports jobs creation and these two bills will result in lost jobs and revenue for communities, states and the Nation.**



## **Women's Mining Coalition Witnesses** **How Permitting Delays Cost Americans Jobs**

### **Background**

The United States already has one of the longest permitting processes in the world for energy and mineral development. "Permitting delays in the United States are the most significant risk to mining projects. The United States is ranked next to lowest due to the average 5-year to 7-year period required before mine development can commence," According to Behre Dolbear's analysis, "Where Not to Invest, 2009." Since mining is a capital-intensive process, investment dollars for mineral exploration and development tend to flow to countries where investors are likely to get the earliest return on their investment. The uncertainties regarding length of time for approval of mining activities has contributed to an all-time low amount of mineral exploration dollars being invested in the United States and to increased reliance on foreign supplies of minerals.

### **An Avoidable Bureaucratic Roadblock**

One avoidable source of delay is the Department of the Interior's policy for processing certain administrative notices under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for mining operations. This "clearance process" for NEPA Federal Register notices, requiring notice to be sent from state offices to D.C. to undergo 14 separate levels of review within DOI, needlessly adds months to the permit process. (See attached chart.) Delays were exacerbated further by a December 2009 decision to eliminate the categories of routine notices that were previously exempt from review.

### **Agency Resources**

Delays can also be attributed to the strained resources of the agencies responsible for permit approvals. For example, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service are facing ever-growing responsibilities and obligations to process the notices and plans of operation necessary for domestic mineral and energy development projects while simultaneously facing retirements of their most knowledgeable personnel. Additional funding is imperative to lessen this backlog of notices and plans of operation.

### **Delays Cost Jobs**

At a time when job creation is the nation's top priority, it is imperative that we use an efficient and timely permitting process for energy and mineral development rather than creating unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles. Delays in processing mining permits have impacts far beyond any particular mining project. Delays impact investment; lack of investment results in less exploration; less exploration results in less development of domestic resources; less development of domestic resources leads to greater reliance on **foreign sources, creating a greater reliance on foreign sources, thus impacting our economic and national security and eliminating jobs.** According to a 2010 U.S. Geological Survey report, America is now 100 percent reliant on foreign sources of 19 mineral commodities, many of which have no substitute in developing green energy, and more than 50 percent reliant on an additional 38 mineral commodities.

**Attachment 4**  
**Prospective Conservation Designation:**  
**National Monument Designations under the Antiquities Act**

Many nationally significant landscapes are worthy of inclusion in the NLCS. The areas listed below may be good candidates for National Monument designation under the Antiquities Act; however, further evaluations should be completed prior to any final decision, including an assessment of public and Congressional support.

*San Rafael Swell, UT*

Located in South-Central Utah, the San Rafael Swell is a 75 by 40 mile giant dome made of sandstone, shale and limestone – one of the most spectacular displays of geology in the country. The Swell is surrounded by canyons, gorges, mesas and buttes, and is home to eight rare plant species, desert big horns, coyotes, bobcats, cottontail rabbits, badgers, gray and kit fox, and the golden eagle. Visitors to the area can find ancient Indian rock art and explore a landscape with geographic features resembling those found on Mars.

*Montana's Northern Prairie, MT*

The Northern Montana Prairie contains some of the largest unplowed areas of grasslands in the world and some of the best habitat regions in all the Great Plains. Unfortunately, we are losing our grasslands and northern prairies at alarming rates, and few opportunities exist to conserve grassland ecosystems and their native biota on large scales. If protected, Montana's Northern Prairie would connect more than 2.5 million acres of protected grasslands bordering Bitter Creek Wilderness Study Area and Grasslands National Park in Canada. This cross-boundary conservation unit would provide an opportunity to restore prairie wildlife and the possibility of establishing a new national bison range. This landscape conservation opportunity would require conservation easements, willing seller acquisitions, and withdrawal from the public domain.

*Lesser Prairie Chicken Preserve, NM*

This 58,000-acre Preserve is prime habitat for both the lesser prairie chicken and the sand dune lizard. This area of sand dunes and tall bluestem grasses is ideal habitat for both species. The Preserve contains more than 30 percent of the occupied lesser prairie chicken habitat in southeastern New Mexico. Recent monitoring of the area concluded that this habitat is in good to excellent condition. Protection of this area offers the best opportunity to avoid the necessity of listing either of these species as threatened or endangered.

*Berryessa Snow Mountains, CA*

The public lands of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region stretch from the lowlands of Putah Creek below Lake Berryessa, across remote stretches of Cache Creek, and up to the peaks of Goat Mountain and Snow Mountain. This vast expanse—nearly 500,000 acres in the wild heart of California's inner Coast Ranges — provides habitat and critical long-term movement corridors for many species of wildlife and an unusually rich part of the California Floristic Province, a biological hotspot of global importance.

*Heart of the Great Basin, NV*

The Heart of the Great Basin contains Nevada's wild heart – a globally unique assemblage of cultural, wildlife, and historical values. Here, Toiyabe, Toquima, and Monitor peaks tower to 12,000 feet. Thousands of petroglyphs and stone artifacts provide insight to the area's inhabitants from as long as 12,000 years ago. The region contains varied ecosystems including alpine tundra, rushing creeks, aspen groves, and high desert sage grouse habitat. The area is also a center of climate change scientific research, (e.g., Great Basin Pika is a keystone species for climate research), and one of North America's least appreciated wildland mosaics.

*Otero Mesa, NM*

Stretching over 1.2 million acres, Otero Mesa is home to more than 1,000 native wildlife species, including black-tailed prairie dogs, mountain lions, desert mule deer, and the only genetically pure herd of pronghorn antelope in New Mexico. These vast desert grasslands of Otero Mesa, once found throughout the region, have disappeared or been reduced to small patches unable to support native wildlife. Otero Mesa is one of the last remaining vestiges of grasslands – America's most endangered ecosystem.

*Northwest Sonoran Desert, AZ*

The Sonoran Desert is the most biologically diverse of all North American deserts. This area west of Phoenix is largely remote and undeveloped, with a high concentration of pristine desert wilderness landscapes. There is potential for up to 500,000 acres of new wilderness and National Conservation Area designations.

*Owyhee Desert, OR/NV*

Last year, Congress protected a significant portion of the Owyhee Canyonlands region in Idaho. However, a significant portion of the Owyhee region in Oregon and Nevada remains unprotected. The Owyhee Desert is one of the most remote areas in the continental United States, characterized by juniper covered deserts, natural arches, mountains and ancient lava flows. The many branching forks of the Owyhee River form deep, sheer-walled canyons between desert wilderness and entice river runners from around the Nation. The Owyhees are home to the world's largest herd of California bighorn sheep, elk, deer, cougar, Redband trout, sage-grouse and raptors.

*Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, CA (expansion)*

In 2000, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument was established to protect the extraordinary biodiversity and vegetation found in southwestern Oregon. Unfortunately, because of political constraints, the Monument's southern boundary was artificially established at the California State line. Therefore, the Monument does not include the ecologically important Klamath River tributaries and cuts out sections of important eco-regions from protection. Connectivity of landscapes is essential to protect and maintain healthy wildlife populations especially in the face of global climate change. In addition, this expansion could connect Cascade-Siskiyou with the proposed Siskiyou Crest National Monument. Expansions on the Oregon side may also be worth consideration.

*Vermillion Basin, CO*

The Vermillion Basin, located in northwest Colorado, is a rugged and wild landscape containing sweeping sagebrush basins, ancient petroglyph-filled canyons and whitewater rivers. Besides its scenic qualities, the basin is a critical migration corridor and winter ground for big game species such as elk, mule deer and pronghorn, in addition to being vital sage grouse habitat. This unique high desert basin is currently under threat of oil and gas development, which will forever alter the region.

*Bodie Hills, CA*

The remote Bodie Hills, located in the eastern Sierra Nevada, provide habitat for the imperiled sage grouse and the iconic pronghorn antelope, rare in California. The ghost town of Bodie State Historic Park, managed by the State of California, lies at the center of the Bodie Hills. Bodie State Historic Park is known as the best preserved ghost town in the West and receives several hundred thousand visits annually. Numerous gold mining operations have been proposed in the Bodies, and a new proposal is pending. Bodie Hills provides an opportunity to link both ecotourism and cultural tourism providing benefits to the surrounding communities.

*The Modoc Plateau, CA*

Tucked away in California's northeast corner, the Modoc Plateau contains some of the State's most spectacular and remote lands. This wild and largely undiscovered region features an array of natural riches: unbroken vistas, abundant wildlife, and millions of acres of intact, undisturbed landscapes. Spanning close to three million acres of public land that is laden with biological and archeological treasures, the Modoc Plateau is one of the State's most important natural landscapes. The crown jewel of these areas -- the Skedaddle Mountains -- covers close to a half-million acres in California and Nevada. The California portion alone is the second largest unprotected wilderness area in the state.

*Cedar Mesa region, UT*

For more than 12,000 years, generations of families from Paleo-Indian big game hunters to Mormon settlers traveled to the area now within southeastern Utah's Cedar Mesa region. Their stories are now buried among the area's estimated hundreds of thousands of prehistoric and historic sites. Cedar Mesa also contains thousands of largely intact cliff dwellings and open-air sites built between A.D. 750 and 1300 by later prehistoric farmers known as the Ancestral Puebloans or Anasazi.

*San Juan Islands, WA*

This cluster of hundreds of islands along the Nation's northern border contains a wealth of resources. The deep channels between islands and placid, reef-studded bays are home to myriad marine species and support major migratory routes for Orcas. The islands contain healthy pine and fir forests which protect a wide variety of wildlife species. The outstanding scenery and a historic lighthouse support diverse recreation opportunities. This area also supports sailing and sea kayaking opportunities that are unique in the Northwest.

**Attachment 5**

**Conservation Designations:**

**Areas worthy of protection that are ineligible for Monument Designation and unlikely to receive legislative protection in the near term**

*Bristol Bay Region, AK*

Bristol Bay, located in southwest Alaska, is pristine wild country encompassing Alaska's largest lake, rugged snow-capped peaks and tundra laced with countless winding rivers. Bristol Bay has been called the world's greatest salmon fishery, home to the largest sockeye salmon fisheries and one of the largest king salmon runs in the world. The region is also home to caribou, brown and black bear, moose, sandhill cranes, and myriad migratory birds. Conservationists have expressed that Bristol Bay is threatened by proposed open pit gold mining, which would forever alter this pristine and delicate watershed, potentially exposing the salmon and trout habitat to acid mine drainage.

*Teshkepuk Lake, AK*

Teshkepuk Lake is a 22-mile wide lake located on the north slope of Alaska. Due to climate change and loss of habitat, Teshkepuk Lake has been called one of the most important areas for wildlife population survival in the entire Arctic. The Lake and surrounding land is both a migration and calving ground for 46,000 caribou and home to 90,000 summer geese. In addition, hundreds of species of birds migrate from six continents to spend part of the year at Teshkepuk Lake.

*Red Desert, WY*

The Red Desert's rich landscape offers spectacular desert structures and wildlife habitat. The Desert provides world class pronghorn and elk hunting; the area is home to the largest desert elk herd in North America and the migration path for 50,000 pronghorn antelope. Early explorers, pioneers, and Mormon settlers used the unique features in the Red Desert as landmarks to guide them Westward. The Pony Express Trail traverses the northern section of the Red Desert. One of the unique features in the Red Desert is Adobe Town, an astonishing and remote set of badlands and geologic formations. Visitors can see fossils of long-extinct mammals, reptiles and invertebrates.



**Attachment 6**  
**Cost Estimates: High Priority Land-Rationalization Efforts**

*(i) Checkerboard Consolidation*

The BLM proposes a program of land consolidation for its checkerboarded lands, particularly in Nevada, Oregon, California, Wyoming, and Utah.

**Cost estimate:** The BLM estimates this initiative could be accomplished, where consistent with BLM land-use plans and in areas where there is a willing seller, over the next 10 years at an annual expenditure of approximately \$5 million. Conversely, the BLM may use land exchanges or sales to dispose of lands within checkerboard areas consistent with land use plans as it attempts to meet our management goals for a specific area or region.

*(ii) Alpine Triangle, CO*

The Alpine Triangle contains a dramatic, high elevation, alpine tundra ecosystem unusual for BLM land. This wild area contains about 25,000 acres of patented mining claims that could be used to support backcountry cabins and second home development, which would threaten the landscape. Pursuing acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands here would help consolidate BLM land ownership in this nearly 200,000-acre block of high value conservation land.

**Cost estimate:** BLM estimates that there are approximately 2,400 patented mill sites and mining claims totaling roughly 25,000 acres. Recent Forest Service acquisitions of similarly situated groups of patented mining claims in the area were purchased for approximately \$1,400 per acre. A 2008 formal appraisal for a BLM land exchange involving a small number of patented mining claims within the Triangle estimated the claims to be worth \$1,700 per acre. Therefore using an average estimated value of \$1,500 per acre, the total dollar amount to acquire the 25,000 acres would be about \$37.5 million. This management area also includes some Forest Service Land; however, the BLM counted only patented mining claims that would fall under BLM jurisdiction if acquired. Careful analysis would be required because some claims are known to be contaminated, which would affect BLM's ability to acquire the properties.

*(iii) Upper Missouri River, MT*

This project is located from Fort Benton downstream to the Fort Peck Dam, a.k.a. "Fort to Fort," on the main stem of the Missouri river, along the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River and Missouri Breaks National Monument, and including the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. The stretch features a small number of very large privately owned ranches with river frontage, such as the PN Ranch along the Judith River and nearby ABN Ranch. Conserving these private ranches would benefit the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, the exceptional scenery along the area, and important wildlife habitat.

**Cost estimate:** Based on recent market activity, prices in the \$300 per acre for raw land are common. For the 80,000 acres of inholdings, that would make the cost of acquiring the inholdings roughly \$24 million. This would not include improvements such as houses and outbuildings, and would not necessarily include mineral rights or existing leases. The State of

Montana has also indicated a desire to divest itself of 39,000 acres of inholdings in the same area.

*(iv) Pioneer Range, ID*

Roughly 140,000 acres of private lands provide a critical nexus between low-elevation BLM land in the Craters of the Moon National Monument and high-elevation Forest Service lands in this region. Only about 7 percent of these lands have been protected from development by conservation easements to date. Local landowners are working with conservation groups in the Pioneers Conservation Alliance to protect this important landscape.

**Cost Estimate:** Costs per acre in the Pioneer Range area vary widely, from \$1,000 to \$20,000 per acre. Total costs would depend on the location of willing sellers.

*(v) John Day River, OR*

This initiative would consolidate BLM land of the John Day Wild and Scenic River in Oregon benefitting salmon recovery and allowing for more effective management of recreation along this highly scenic and popular river.

**Cost estimate:** To consolidate BLM lands within a quarter mile of the currently designated sections of the John Day Wild and Scenic River, it would cost approximately \$67 million, working with willing sellers. This rough estimate does not factor in State and Forest Service ownership.

*(vi) Upper Green River Valley, WY – Wyoming Range to Wind River Range*

This initiative would focus on conserving large private ranches that are located at the base of the Wyoming and Wind River Ranges in the Upper Green River Valley to benefit sage grouse, big game species and the path of the pronghorn antelope.

**Cost estimate:** The BLM, the State of Wyoming, Conservation Fund, Jonah Interagency Office, Green River Valley Land Trust, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wyoming Wildlife Foundation, the Bridger Teton National Forest, and a host of other private/public partnerships are all working cooperatively in the area between the Wyoming Range and the Wind River Range to provide big game migratory corridors and wildlife habitat improvement through easements and landscape level improvement projects. These cooperative efforts pay big dividends to the State, Federal and private partners involved by increasing individual ownership and responsibility for projects, and decreasing cost and burden to Federal and State governments.

To acquire land, property values are variable based on location, features, access/availability of water, elevation, and real improvements. In order to have an accurate portrayal of costs, serious appraisal work would be required. With that in mind, a preliminary estimate of a private land purchase in the area may be calculated as follows:

Field Office Total (all ownerships)	1,618,140 acres
State & Private land:	397,210 acres (nearly a quarter of the field office area, from the Wyoming Range to the Wind River Mountains)

Average asking price per acre:	\$6,000.00
Total:	\$2,383,260,000

(vii) *National Historic and Scenic Trails (multiple states)*

This initiative would explore acquisition of key historic properties along National Historic Trails (NHTs). Willing land owners and local, State and Federal agencies work with the BLM on land acquisition, exchanges, sales, easements, and cooperative agreements, providing public access along missing segments of national scenic trails, and protection for critically important historic sites, segments, and settings along national historic trails.

**Cost Estimate:** Under the Secretary's Treasured Landscape initiative, the BLM would focus over the next 10 years on connecting critical scenic trail segments and the associated trail qualities, and properties that are key to the story of Western settlement and the associated diverse American cultures – including the Hispanic trails in the southwest, the journey of Lewis and Clark, the Nez Perce flight, emigrant travels West, Pony Express sites, and the Iditarod Trail between native Alaskan villages. An estimated \$7 million per year would provide a substantial base for an aggressive willing seller program along the BLM's National Scenic and Historic Trails.



## Mine Safety: An Industry Priority

There is a common misperception that coal mining is the most dangerous of occupations. Many people mistakenly believe that coal miners still are forced to work in conditions similar to those seen in historical pictures or old movies, with blackened faces and pickaxes slung over shoulders and without any form of support or representation in the industry or government. In reality, however, coal mining has undergone substantial changes since its beginnings in North America.

Mining is regulated under a comprehensive federal safety law (Federal Mine Safety and Health Act) that is administered by the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

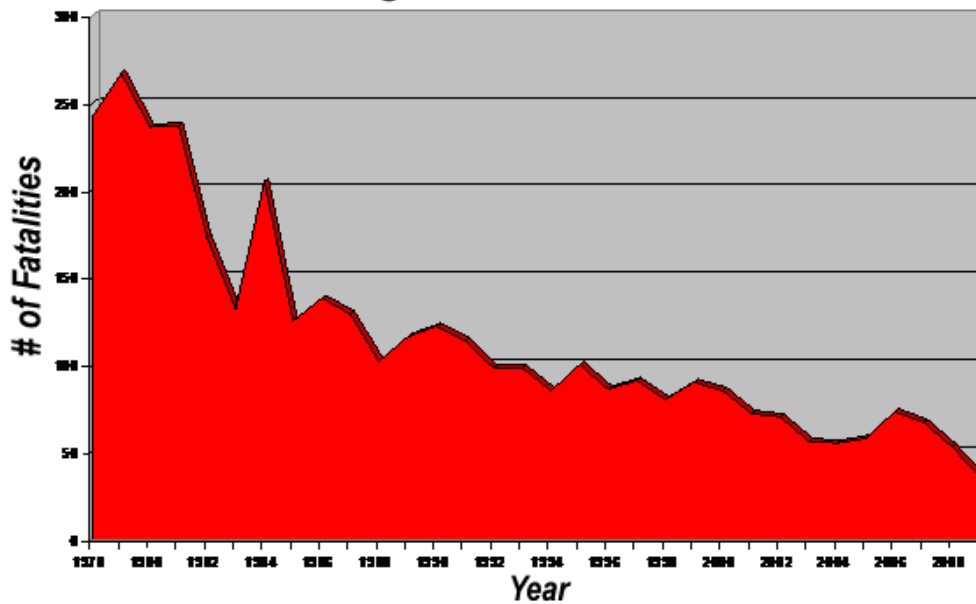
By any measure, the U.S. mining industry in total has made significant advances in improving the health and safety of its skilled and highly-trained workforce. This improvement, documented statistically from several independent sources, has been sustained, significant and long-term, and is the result of seven key trends:

- A commitment by management, workers & regulators to a goal of zero fatalities & injuries;
- better equipment design;
- technological advances;
- conscientious safety awareness;
- improved engineering methods;
- advanced and continuous training;
- strong oversight and assistance from the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration.

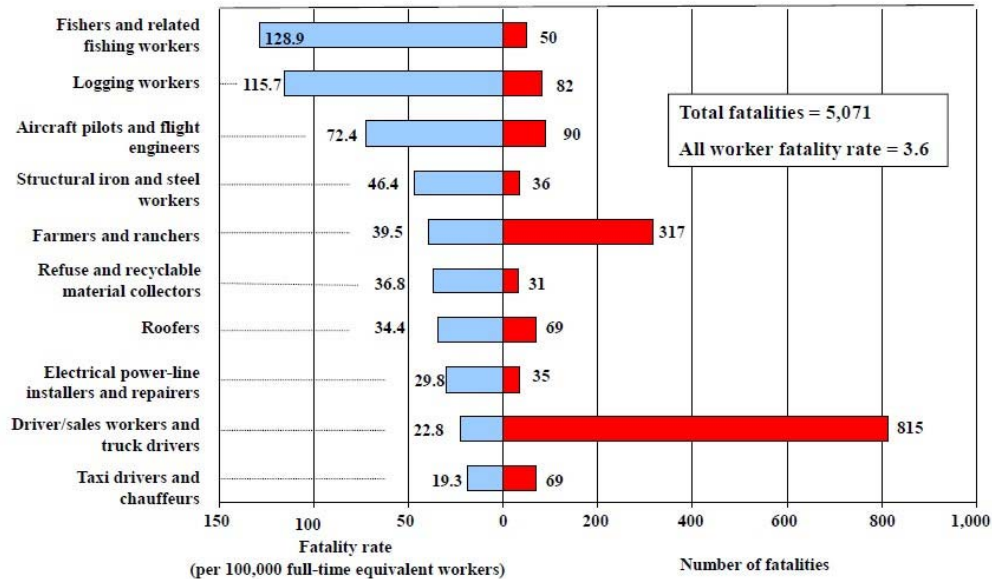
As with any industry, there are some risks associated with coal mining. However, a committed and comprehensive effort on the part of industry, government and employees over the past 40 years has seen employee injuries and **fatalities reduced by 93%**. This improvement in employee safety is made all the more impressive in light of the fact that, during the same time period, production of coal in the U.S. has increased by 75%.

In **2009** there was **a historical low in fatalities; only 18 miner fatalities occurred per 100,000 workers**. When compared with the previous 6 years, the 2009 fatality rate for coal mining of .0149 injuries per 200,000 hours worked is less than half of the 2003 rate of .0312. As the MSHA graph shows (second graph, next page), **mining was not even in the top 10 most dangerous occupations**.

# U.S. Mining Fatalities CY 1978-2009



## Selected occupations with high fatality rates, 2008\*



Fatal work injury rates were highest for fishers, logging workers, and aircraft pilots and flight engineers in 2008.

\*Data for 2008 are preliminary.

NOTE: In 2008, CFOI implemented a new methodology, using hours worked for fatality rate calculations rather than employment. For additional information on the fatality rate methodology changes please see <http://www.bls.gov/iif/osh/notice10.htm>.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2009.

- Injuries have fallen by two-thirds in the last 16 years.
- Over half of U.S. coal mines operate each year without a single lost work time injury.
- Since 1970, coal production has increased 89 percent while fatal injuries have decreased by 81 percent.



## Mine Safety and Health

U.S. mining has made significant advances in improving the health and safety of its workforce. In 2009, 87 percent of the nation's mines operated without a lost-time injury. This improvement has been sustained over time and is the result of several key factors:

- **Technology** - Advanced technology that is more protective of mine worker health and safety and better equipment design to reduce potential for ergonomically related injuries and unsafe practices.
- **Training and awareness** - More frequent training coupled with ongoing instruction that recognizes the increased complexity of today's mines, changes in the workforce and new safety imperatives that demand greater safety awareness.
- **Comprehensive laws and regulations** - The legal and regulatory framework that governs mine safety has expanded.
- **Trends and risk analysis** - Causes of injuries are examined more rigorously and addressed in a systematic way, and analyses of individual mining situations are underway to eliminate areas of potential risk.
- **Commitment** - A commitment by mine operators, workers and regulators to achieving zero fatalities and injuries in America's mines.

To achieve continued improvement in mine safety and health, the mining industry promotes health and safety as a core value. It strives to instill the values of safety leadership, accountability and personal involvement in every employee and to provide them with the required training and tools to prevent fatalities, injuries or occupational illnesses.

Technological ingenuity, better training, improved engineering methods and conscientious safety awareness by miners, mine operators and equipment manufacturers has enabled the industry to establish a record of continuous improvement.

NMA urges members of Congress to proceed cautiously as it considers what changes in the law governing mine safety are necessary to prevent a reoccurrence of the recent tragic events at mines. Investigations underway by federal and state agencies are proceeding and will provide the needed information to guide future decision-making.

For more information please visit [www.nma.org](http://www.nma.org) or contact Bruce Watzman at (202) 463-2657 or [bwatzman@nma.org](mailto:bwatzman@nma.org) or Maggie Hlobik at (202) 463-2653 or [mhlobik@nma.org](mailto:mhlobik@nma.org)



## **Women's Mining Coalition Supports Privacy** **Oppose H.R. 1409 and S. 560**

"Card Check"  
Employee Free Choice Act

The Women's Mining Coalition (WMC) opposes the "Employee Free Choice Act" (H.R. 1409/S. 560) which would prevent employees from voting in private. America's workers deserve the right to a fair, federally supervised secret ballot election process when deciding whether or not to join a union. Workers are better protected from intimidation and coercion by casting their vote privately with a federally supervised secret ballot. Taking away this right would be undemocratic and would expose employees to threats and intimidation during the organizing process. The only way to guarantee worker protection is through the continued use of a federally supervised private ballot, so that personal decisions about whether to join a union remain private.

- The "Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA)" or "card check" legislation would strip workers of their rights by replacing the private ballot with a card check system that allows a union to organize if a majority of workers simply sign a card. Under this system, paid union organizers oversee the process, making the workers' choice public to their employer, co-workers and union organizers.
- EFCA also contains provisions that force binding arbitration on the employer and the collective bargaining unit. Such legislation creates uncertainty for business planning, stunting future business growth and further weakens America's already struggling economy.
- Senate proponents of EFCA have recently discussed the possibility of introducing a legislative compromise. However, compromise in the form of "quickie" elections or mail-in ballots are equally dangerous, giving professional union organizers the upper-hand in coercing workers to join a labor union by denying employees their rights to education from both management and labor.
- Compromise legislation will also retain binding arbitration provisions, which would insert further uncertainty into the business marketplace and weaken the U.S. economy.

**WMC urges members of Congress to oppose H.R. 1409 and S. 560.**



## **Women's Mining Coalition Supports Bi-Partisan Efforts to Curtail Misuse of the Clean Air Act**

### EPA Regulation of Greenhouse Gasses

The Women's Mining Coalition (WMC) supports bipartisan efforts in the House and Senate that aim to stop the Environmental Protection Agency from misusing the Clean Air Act to unilaterally impose job-destroying greenhouse gas emission rules.

In the Senate, Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) have introduced S.J. Res. 26, while in the House, Reps. Ike Skelton (D-Mo.), Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) and Jo Ann Emerson (R-Mo.) have introduced H.J. Res. 76. These resolutions would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from misusing the Clean Air Act (CAA) to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

EPA has proposed regulating greenhouse gas emissions under the CAA, even though the act was never intended for such an effort and despite numerous statements by EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson that the Obama Administration wants Congress, not EPA, to make any final decisions on possible greenhouse gas emission rules.

America's future economic prosperity is rooted in the ready supply of affordable domestic energy. Affordable electricity supports jobs across the entire manufacturing and services sectors. EPA's proposed course of action would devastate American coal mine operators, who provide the lion's share of domestic electricity, which in turn would deal a severe economic blow to the businesses and jobs that rely on coal for affordable energy.

EPA's unilateral effort to impose these regulations would spread economic pain across the entire economy. American mineral and metal producers, small and large manufacturers and businesses of every variety would feel the pain of EPA's plans.

EPA itself has projected that regulation of greenhouse gases under the CAA will saddle burdensome regulatory obligations on more than 6 million sources, flooding federal and state agencies with more than 40,000 permit applications annually, while increasing the average time to process a permit to 10 years.

We urge members of Congress to support S.J. Res. 26 and H.J. Res. 76 to stop EPA and ensure that any future energy and environment rules are created by elected officials sent to Washington, D.C., by the voters, and not by unelected federal bureaucrats.

**WMC Urges Congress to Support S.J. Res. 26 and H.J. Res. 76—Resolutions Preventing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from misusing the Clean Air Act (CAA) to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.**





## **Clean Water Act Amendments to Restrict 404 Permits Costing American Jobs and Revenue**

The Women's Mining Coalition (WMC) opposes legislation introduced by Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN), the "Appalachian Restoration Act" (S. 696), which would ban surface coal mining in Appalachia.

- S. 696 prevents the issuance of a Section 404 permit for any operations that remove an entire coal seam "from outcrop to outcrop or seams running through the upper fraction of a mountain, ridge or hill by removing substantially all of the overburden off the mine bench."
- The Environmental Protection Agency and the Congressional Research Service have confirmed that S. 696 would extend to all surface coal mining operations, even though the sponsors promote it as a regional ban on mountaintop mining.
- This legislation would be devastating to coal mining employment and to communities that rely on coal mining for their economic well being.

WMC also opposes legislation introduced in the House by Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ), the "Clean Water Protection Act" (H.R. 1310).

- H.R. 1310 limits the definition of "fill material" and would negatively affect all earth moving activities, road and highway construction, private and commercial development and many of the projects funded in the \$787 billion economic stimulus package.
- The measure would overturn a rule proposed during the Clinton Administration and change 30 years of regulatory practice. Regardless, H.R. 1310 also is being described by its supporters as narrowly written to outlaw only 404 fill permits for mountaintop mining operations.

### **WMC urges members of Congress to oppose S. 696 and H.R. 1310.**

Congressional opposition to mountaintop mining is fostered by an inaccurate representation of landscape impacts of the practice, with little or no consideration of final reclamation and the economic benefits of mining and post-mining development in local communities.

The practice is necessary and dependent on the geography and topography of specific mine sites. Restricting or precluding the production of more than 10 million tons of coal from Appalachian mines jeopardizes a reliable and affordable source of domestic energy, resulting in consumer electricity price increases and jobs loss.



## **Women's Mining Coalition Asks the Administration to Maintain Affordable Electricity for Every American**

### Proposed Tax Increases for Coal Mining

U.S. coal producers play an integral role in fostering the nation's continued economic prosperity by meeting much of America's growing energy needs. U.S. coal mining directly employs nearly 134,000 people in 25 states and, for each coal mining job, an additional 3.5 jobs are created elsewhere in the economy. Nine out of every ten tons of coal mined each year in the U.S. is used for domestic electricity generation. Nearly half of U.S. electricity is generated from coal.

The Obama Administration's FY2011 budget has singled out coal mining for \$2.3 billion worth of tax increases. To maintain affordable energy prices and preserve jobs, Congress should reject these unwarranted proposals to eliminate longstanding tax rules affecting coal mining.

### Tax-Increase Proposals Raise Prices, Cost Jobs

The Obama Administration's four proposed tax increases on coal mining would have severe economic consequences. Coal companies are like other businesses—when their costs go up, they must raise prices to remain viable. Since our country relies on coal to power half of its electricity generation, consumers will pay more for electricity. In addition to hurting hard-pressed consumers directly, increased electricity costs will ripple throughout the economy, costing jobs.

To the extent coal companies are unable to recover the \$2.3 billion of increased taxes through price increases, the jobs, salaries and benefits of thousands of mine workers will be put at risk. These coal tax increase proposals eliminate jobs instead of creating jobs.

These tax increases would raise the cost of doing business for U.S. coal mining companies, threaten the jobs of more than 130,000 employees, and increase electricity prices for U.S. consumers at a time when jobs are needed and the cost of living needs to be reduced not increased.

**Please Don't Support Increased Taxes—Support Instead Research and Development of New Coal Technologies That Result in Jobs Creation, Continued Electrical Generation Diversification, and Affordability.**



## **Women's Mining Coalition Asks Congress Not to Eliminate Desperately Needed Jobs. Don't Increase the Cost of Living for Every American.**

The Women's Mining Coalition (WMC) opposes the "Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act" (S. 1733) sponsored by Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and similar legislative approaches that:

- Threaten to eliminate high-wage mining jobs;
- Increase electricity prices by more than 100 percent, saddling American businesses and families with higher energy bills; lowering investment and disposable incomes;
- Drive up costs for consumer goods and services;
- Could eliminate coal as a source of affordable electricity and may result in American jobs exported to countries with no greenhouse gas emissions restrictions; and
- Mandate sharp near-term emission reductions before advanced clean coal technologies, such as carbon capture and storage (CCS), can be developed and cost-effectively deployed.

While changes to the House-approved legislation by the Senate were intended to reduce harmful economic consequences, these changes are not sufficient to produce a balanced and responsible policy for addressing the country's concerns.

### **What's Best for the Country:**

In addition to assuring that emission reductions are compatible with the commercial availability of the enabling technologies, **an effective and balanced climate policy must include:**

- Cost-containment measures, such as a cost-effective "safety valve" and unrestricted offsets to protect against spikes in energy costs that will drive business and jobs overseas;
- Sufficient, reliable and timely funding and incentives to accelerate the development, demonstration and broad commercial deployment of advanced coal technologies such as CCS;
- A comprehensive legal framework governing carbon capture and storage liability in order to provide the certainty needed to attract investment;
- Effective measures that maintain the global competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing and mining industries; and
- Clear and comprehensive preemption of all federal, state and local laws addressing greenhouse gas emissions.

**America's families, communities and businesses cannot sustain higher energy costs, additional job losses and a further weakening of our economy.**  
**We urge you to oppose the Kerry-Boxer bill.**

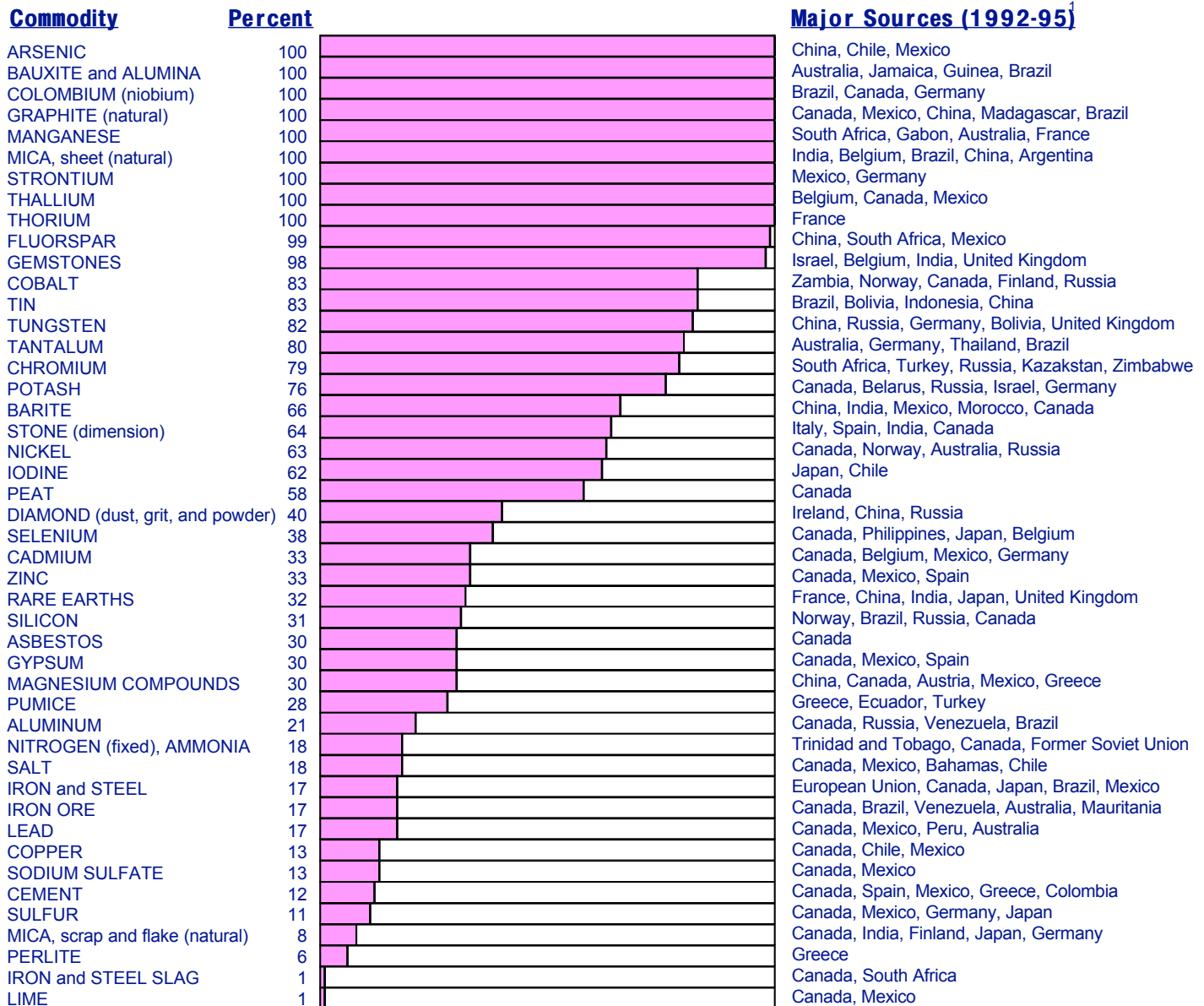


# 2009 U.S. NET IMPORT RELIANCE FOR SELECTED NONFUEL MINERAL MATERIALS

Commodity	Percent	Major Import Sources (2005-08) <sup>1</sup>
ARSENIC (trioxide)	100	China, Morocco, Belgium, Hong Kong
ASBESTOS	100	Canada
BAUXITE and ALUMINA	100	Jamaica, Brazil, Guinea, Australia
CESIUM	100	Canada
FLUORSPAR	100	China, Mexico, South Africa
GRAPHITE (natural)	100	China, Mexico, Canada, Brazil
INDIUM	100	China, Japan, Canada, Belgium
MANGANESE	100	South Africa, Gabon, China, Australia
MICA, sheet (natural)	100	China, Brazil, Belgium, India
NIOBIUM (columbium)	100	Brazil, Canada, Germany, Estonia
QUARTZ CRYSTAL (industrial)	100	China, Japan, Russia
RARE EARTHS	100	China, Japan, France, Russia
RUBIDIUM	100	Canada
STRONTIUM	100	Mexico, Germany
TANTALUM	100	Australia, China, Brazil, Japan
THALLIUM	100	Russia, Germany, Netherlands
THORIUM	100	United Kingdom, France, Canada
VANADIUM	100	Czech Republic, Rep. of Korea, Canada, Austria
YTTRIUM	100	China, Japan, France
GALLIUM	99	Germany, Canada, China, Ukraine
GEMSTONES	99	Israel, India, Belgium, South Africa
ANTIMONY	93	China, Mexico, Belgium
BISMUTH	90	Belgium, China, United Kingdom, Mexico
GERMANIUM	90	Belgium, China, Germany, Russia
PLATINUM	89	South Africa, Germany, United Kingdom, Canada
BARITE	80	China, India
TIN	80	Peru, Bolivia, China, Indonesia
RHENIUM	79	Chile, Netherlands
DIAMOND (natural industrial stone)	78	Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, India
STONE (dimension)	78	Brazil, Italy, China, Turkey
ZINC	76	Canada, Peru, Mexico, Ireland
COBALT	75	Norway, Russia, China, Canada
POTASH	73	Canada, Belarus, Germany, Russia
TITANIUM MINERAL CONCENTRATES	73	South Africa, Australia, Canada, Ukraine
TITANIUM (sponge)	67	Kazakhstan, Japan, China, Ukraine
SILVER	63	Mexico, Canada, Peru, Chile
TUNGSTEN	63	China, Germany, Canada, Bolivia
PEAT	60	Canada
PALLADIUM	47	Russia, South Africa, United Kingdom, Belgium
NITROGEN (fixed), AMMONIA	40	Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, Russia, Ukraine
CHROMIUM	39	South Africa, Kazakhstan, Russia
VERMICULITE	39	China, South Africa
GARNET (industrial)	37	India, Australia, China, Canada
DIAMOND (dust, grit and powder)	35	China, Ireland, Russia, Republic of Korea
MAGNESIUM METAL	35	Canada, Israel, Russia, China
MAGNESIUM COMPOUNDS	28	China, Austria, Canada, Australia
SILICON (ferrosilicon)	27	China, Russia, Venezuela, Canada
COPPER	24	Chile, Canada, Peru, Mexico
PERLITE	21	Greece
GYPSUM	19	Canada, Mexico, Spain
SALT	19	Canada, Chile, Mexico, Peru
ALUMINUM	18	Canada, Russia, Brazil, Venezuela
NICKEL	18	Canada, Russia, Australia, Norway
MICA, scrap and flake (natural)	11	Canada, China, India, Finland
CEMENT	8	China, Canada, Republic of Korea, Thailand
IRON and STEEL SLAG	8	Japan, Canada, Italy, France
IRON and STEEL	7	Canada, European Union, China, Mexico
SULFUR	4	Canada, Mexico, Venezuela
PUMICE	3	Greece, Turkey, Iceland, Mexico
BERYLLIUM	2	Kazakhstan, United Kingdom, Kenya, Ireland
LIME	2	Canada, Mexico
STONE (crushed)	2	Canada, Mexico, The Bahamas
PHOSPHATE ROCK	1	Morocco

<sup>1</sup>In descending order of import share.

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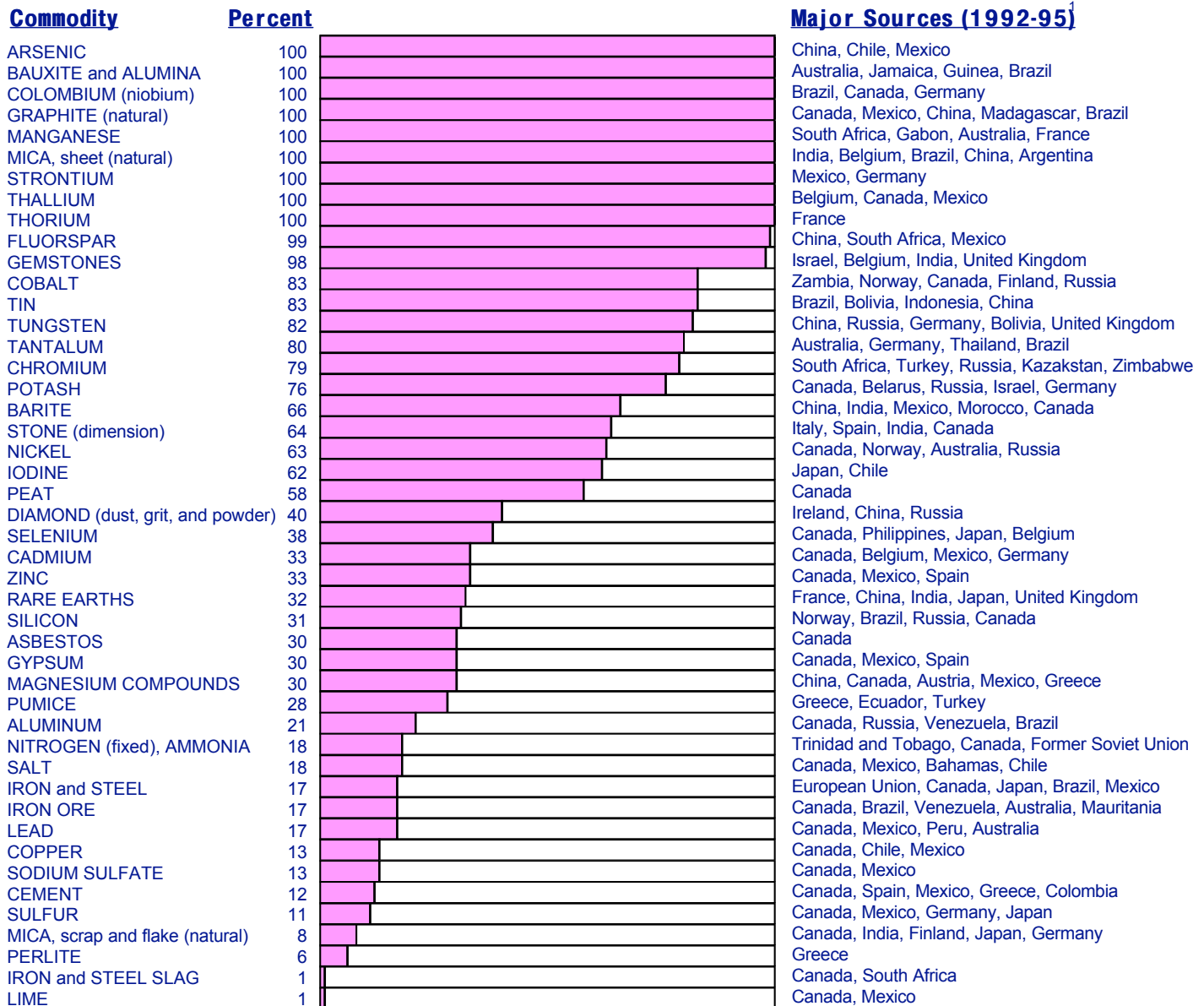
<sup>1</sup> In descending order of importance

Additional commodities for which there is some import dependency include:

Antimony	China, Bolivia, Mexico, South Africa
Bismuth	Mexico, Belgium, China, United Kingdom
Gallium	France, Russia, Germany, Hungary
Germanium	China, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Russia, Belgium
Ilmenite	South Africa, Australia, Canada
Indium	Canada, France, Russia, Italy
Kyanite	South Africa
Mercury	Russia, Canada, Kyrgyzstan, Germany

Platinum	South Africa, United Kingdom, Russia, Germany, Belgium
Rhenium	Chile, Germany, Sweden
Rutile	Australia, South Africa, Sierra Leone
Silver	Mexico, Canada, Peru, Chile
Titanium (sponge)	Russia, Japan, China, Ukraine
Vanadium	South Africa, Canada, Russia, Mexico
Vermiculite	South Africa
Zirconium	Australia, South Africa

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