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# MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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## This Week in the News

After more than 400 days operating under continuing resolutions, Congress passed a \$1.5 trillion omnibus appropriations bill. Meanwhile, the Biden administration juggled a burgeoning global energy and supply chain crisis with domestic goals for pushing forward its environmental regulatory priorities. The National Mining Association (NMA) remains focused on actively engaging to advance mining's interests at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. Plus, we have updates on how the mining and energy markets are faring.

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## Safety Share

Columbia Southern University identified [four occupational safety and health trends](#) for 2022.

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## Senator Barrasso Introduces Russian Import Ban



Today, Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee Ranking Member John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) introduced legislation to prohibit the importation of uranium from the Russian Federation. The bill, backed by the NMA and the Uranium Producers of America, would prohibit the importation of uranium ores, oxides, compounds, concentrates, alloys, or ceramic products and mixtures containing uranium, specifically identified under subheading 2612.10, 2844.10, 2844.20, and 2844.30 of the [Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States](#). Please find a link to the bill [here](#).

The bill is being cosponsored by Senators Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), and Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.). The NMA will continue to support this legislation and

advocate for a robust domestic uranium supply chain for energy and national security needs.

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## NMA Supports Efforts to Halt WOTUS Rulemaking



This week, the NMA applauded the [efforts](#) of more than 200 House Republicans who urged the Biden administration to stop work on the waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rulemaking until after the Supreme Court rules in *Michael Sackett, et ux., Petitioners v. Environmental Protection Agency, et al.* (Sackett). The NMA’s President and CEO, Rich Nolan was quoted in both the [Congressional Western Caucus](#) and [House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee](#) minority’s “*What They Are Saying*” press releases as saying;

*“A pendulum of conflicting ‘waters of the United States’ (WOTUS) court decisions and regulatory actions that change with every new administration has created uncertainty for the mining industry for years. The National Mining Association supports calls from the Congressional Western Caucus and Republicans on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to the administration to halt its ongoing WOTUS rulemaking. With*

*the U.S. Supreme Court reviewing Sackett v. EPA, rushing ahead to complete the rulemaking is ill-conceived and would further inflame confusion for the regulated community and public, while hindering the EPA and Corps' goal of finalizing a 'durable' WOTUS rule that can withstand legal scrutiny. Further, it would be a waste of the federal government's resources to pursue the rulemaking without knowing the Supreme Court's decision."*

## NMA and Third Party Voices

Rich Nolan was interviewed by [FOX Business](#) on coal's resurgence due to the global energy crisis and situation in Ukraine. Rich Nolan is also quoted by [E&E Climatewire](#) in a report noting that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has offered coal a European lifeline.

Rich Nolan is quoted by the [Daily Caller](#) in its report that the Biden administration has failed to address foreign mining and refining dominance, the key to renewable energy security, according to industry leaders.

[Wyoming News Now](#) quotes Rich Nolan in its coverage of Wyodak Resources Development Corporation's CORESafety® certification at its Wyodak Mine.

The NMA is quoted by [E&E Greenwire](#) in its report on the omnibus spending package unveiled by lawmakers.

From our third parties, [American Greatness](#) (USA) carries an op-ed by Mackubin Owens, a retired Marine and professor, in which he argues ensuring the domestic supply of the critical materials essential to both U.S. dominance of the fourth industrial revolution and national defense will require policy interventions that address market failures associated with the production of strategic and critical materials.

[MSN.com](#) (USA) carries an op-ed by Michael Stumo, CEO of the Coalition for a Prosperous America, in which he argues it's past time to rebuild America's industrial base from the ground up—and re-establish secure, domestic supply chains in order to secure

America's future in a more adversarial world.

[Culpeper Star Exponent](#) (Va.), [Huntington Herald Dispatch](#) (W.Va.), [The Roanoke Times](#) (Va.), [Reno Gazette Journal](#) (Nev.), [Johnstown Tribune Democrat](#) (Pa.), [Bakersfield Californian](#) (Calif.), [St. Joseph News Press](#) (Mo.), [Wichita Falls Times Record News](#) (Texas), [Yahoo News](#) (USA), [MSN.com](#) (USA), [Fort Myers News Press](#) (Fla.), [Naples Daily Review](#) (Fla.), [Clermont Sun](#) (Ohio) and [The Bryan Times](#) (Ohio) carry an op-ed by Terry Jarrett, an energy attorney and consultant who has served on both the board of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and the Missouri Public Service Commission, in which he argues if the U.S. is to maintain affordable, reliable power during the coming energy transition, policymakers must be careful not to eliminate essential coal and nuclear power capacity before reliable alternatives are in place.

## Mining and Energy News

Visual Capitalist mapped [U.S. mineral production by state](#).

[Mining.com](#) reported that a recent report by IDTechEx estimates that more than 8 percent of global cobalt demand and more than 6 percent of lithium demand, will be supplied by recycled Li-ion batteries by 2030.

[Reuters](#) reported that carmakers are facing soaring metals prices due to the Russian supply risk.

[Bloomberg](#) reported that nickel prices spiked briefly above \$100,000 a ton on the London Metal Exchange amid a short squeeze that's embroiled a major Chinese bank and encouraged rule changes from one of the world's top commodity exchanges. They also reported that [coal prices](#) have surged as the war drives a global commodities rally.

[U.S. Energy Information Administration](#) reported [U.S. coal exports increased 23 percent](#) between 2020 and 2021.

[Argus](#) reported that U.S. coal exports fell to a 15-month low in January primarily because of lower metallurgical shipments.

**CBC News published: “Energy security concerns and surging prices could give coal industry a [new lease on life](#).”**

[WV Metro News](#) reported that as the worldwide demand for energy ramps up, the price for steam coal has never been higher.

Last week [Mining.com](#) published: “U.S. coal producers say coal export capacity is limited.”

[Argus](#) reported that high natural gas prices may force Europe to switch to coal to meet energy demands in the short term.

**Bloomberg reported European coal consumption is [up 51 percent](#)** over last year.

Oilprice published: “China to [expand coal use](#) as it prioritizes energy security.”

[Climatewire](#) reported that India’s power generation from coal was up in 2021, showing the “scale of climate challenge.”

[Reuters](#) reported that the U.S. ban on Russian energy imports does not include uranium.

[Power Magazine](#) reported “Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and ensuing sanctions may have a limited immediate impact on the U.S. nuclear industry, despite its reliance on uranium imports. Potential implications over the longer term, however, require urgent action, officials from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) said.”

[Politico](#) reports that Russia's war against Ukraine has prompted many to call for accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels. Experts say the increase in metal prices will hurt those efforts.

[Argus](#) reported that Central Appalachian coal production climbed 20 percent last quarter from a year earlier amid greater demand.

[E&E Greenwire](#) reported that the global conflict over the war in Ukraine is creating a crunch in the supply of metals vital to clean technology, threatening to make U.S. progress on climate action more expensive.

[Mining.com](#) reported that “Freeport-McMoRan plans aggressive copper investment in the Southwest U.S.”

[Bloomberg](#) reported that U.S. Senators sent a bipartisan letter to the Biden administration Friday afternoon asking the president to invoke the Defense Production Act to accelerate production of battery materials that are needed to power electric vehicles.

[Greenwire](#) reported that ConservAmerica, a conservative environmental group, is calling for investment in domestic mineral production and voluntary reporting of where materials are purchased overseas.

Manhattan Institute’s Mark Mills analyzed the Russian invasion of Ukraine with a call for “[energy realism](#).”



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