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July 25, 2022

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

Re: Unleash U.S. Energy, Metals and Mineral Resources on Federal Lands and Waters

One hundred percent of our member companies are from the manufacturing sector and are large consumers of natural gas as a fuel and feedstock and dependent upon metal and mineral inputs to produce value-added products, of which many are used in defense industries. Natural gas is also used to produce nearly 40 percent of our nation's power. We remain very concerned that the U.S. Department of the Interior is not doing enough to unleash energy, metals, and mineral supply from federal lands and waters. Geopolitical events clearly demonstrate that domestic production is critically important for both economic and national security to the U.S. and our allies and it is a sound anti-inflation policy.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.1 trillion in annual sales, over 11,700 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.8 million employees worldwide. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, building products, automotive, brewing, independent oil refining, and cement.

Manufacturers cannot substitute, for example, renewable electricity for natural gas to operate. Manufacturing equipment that is designed for the use of natural gas cannot operate on electricity. Plus, a Btu of electricity is a much more expensive than a Btu of natural gas. We also operate 24/7 and renewable energy is not reliable.

Metals and minerals are used as raw materials in the manufacturing of critically important products for the economy and national defense industries. Where possible, we must increase access to domestic resources so that we are not import dependent from countries like China and Russia.

Therefore, we urge the DOI to urgently take action to unleash domestic energy, metals, and minerals production. A forward-looking U.S. DOI policy must continue to include opportunities to explore and develop on and offshore resource leasing in the lower 48 and Alaska. The Gulf of Mexico is the mainstay of U.S. oil and natural gas production. Increased domestic production of these resources could put hundreds of thousands of Americans to work, make us more energy secure, and increase needed revenue for the government. But the U.S. will not receive these benefits unless the federal government supports pro-development energy policies.

Increased production supports reliability and lower energy prices that are needed by the manufacturing sector to compete globally, invest domestically and create jobs.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio

Paul N. Cicio

President & CEO

cc: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
House Committee on Natural Resources
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Jennifer Granholm, U.S. Department of Energy