

# International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers



April 1, 2022:

## Iron Workers Support Use of Defense Production Act to Develop Critical Minerals

The International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers applaud President Biden's actions to instruct federal agencies to use the Defense Production Act to advance production and protect energy assets in the name of national security. This instruction takes additional important steps to address on-going inconsistencies in our supply chain to reduce the overwhelming strain of recent months.

There are good union jobs all along the battery mineral supply chain, from the mine to the electric vehicle assembly plant. But our country is not mining nickel, cobalt, and other critical minerals fast enough to secure our battery supply chain. Ironworkers and other skilled trades are ready to build out our mining capacity. The President's action is an important step towards getting these projects built.

Current world events have proven beyond a doubt that we cannot rely solely on critical materials, including semiconductors, minerals, oil, and gas, from other continents to meet our nation's needs. The unpredictability of the on-going global pandemic paired with foreign conflicts and a rapidly growing US economy give us little choice but to strengthen support for the projects and industries that keep America moving.

We are hopeful that the President's actions will put our economy on the fast track to producing important components needed to power an all-of-the-above energy infrastructure while we get back to work building, repairing, and maintaining these important structures. We hope to see this memorandum paired with swift action by agencies to move critical mineral projects through the permitting process and clearing away obstacles to construction. Federal action just like this is essential to rebuild our physical infrastructure, supply chain, and energy outputs while simultaneously creating good union jobs.

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