Our communities are important to us. We need the jobs and revenue that natural resource products (timber, mining, ranching, and recreation) bring to northeastern Washington. Washington State and the U.S. need the products, minerals and non-government jobs provided through our forests. While we must continue to be vigilant in protecting our environment, we believe we can have a clean, safe, and multiple productive use of our public lands. The appropriate use of our forest resources enhances our lives, providing a strong economic foundation for our area.

**THerefore**, we the undersigned request that you support and pass H.R. 761 legislation (“National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013”) as passed by the U.S. House of Representatives September 17, 2013, which would speed up the permitting process to a maximum of 30 months.

If you cannot support this important legislation we request that you provide us an early written explanation why this legislation is wrong for Washington and the nation.

An early reply would allow us to discuss with you why this legislation is important to communities like ours and the legislative language and we can support together. An early resolve of a commitment to H.R. 761 will allow you and the remaining Senate to support miserable, consistent, and predictable language you and we can support together. An early resolve of a commitment to H.R. 761 will allow you and the remaining Senate to support miserable, consistent, and predictable language you and we can support together.