



Governor Michael J. Dunleavy  
STATE OF ALASKA

October 4, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing pursuant to Executive Order 13766 of January 24, 2017, which authorized Governors to nominate high-priority infrastructure projects. I am requesting the high-priority designation for the Graphite Creek project near Nome, Alaska, and for the advanced materials processing facility that will produce high-performance graphite essential to America's renewable energy networks.

The proposed Graphite Creek Mine, developed in accordance with all applicable safety and environmental standards, would be a great benefit to the Nome region, the local villages, the State of Alaska, and to our Nation. Graphite Creek is the largest deposit of graphite in the Nation, and would be a superior domestic supply of this critical mineral, which is necessary for modern batteries, renewable energy technology, and many other high-technology uses. In addition to producing this superior grade domestic supply, the mine would provide numerous high-paying skilled jobs for Alaskans.

Graphite continues to grow in importance to the U.S. national economy and national security. Alaska, with its resource wealth, stands ready to play its role in meeting this critical need. I applaud your recent decision to encourage the domestic production of essential rare earths elements, and encourage you to view graphite with the same sense of urgency. What is true of the rare earths is equally true of graphite: both materials are on the 2018 U.S. Government Critical Minerals List. The U.S. is presently 100 percent import-dependent for both rare earths and graphite, with the world's largest producer being China.

While Governor I have created the Alaska Development Team, which stands ready to work on projects such as this. We have an internationally-recognized permit coordination system through the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management and Permitting, that can coordinate state and federal agency involvement.

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Designating the Graphite Creek Project as a high-priority infrastructure project will send a strong signal that the U.S. intends to end the days of our 100 percent import-dependency for this increasingly critical mineral. I urge you to designate Graphite Creek a high-priority infrastructure project, and to make that action known to the Council on Environmental Quality and any other federal agency that may play a role in implementing Executive Order 13766.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. J. Dunleavy", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Michael J. Dunleavy  
Governor