Women’s Mining Coalition Meets with Over 160 Congressional, Regulatory, and White House Offices
Mining Advocacy Group Successfully Completes 26th Annual Washington D.C Fly-In

Thirty-six members of the Women’s Mining Coalition (WMC) from 16 states traveled to Washington D.C. for the 26th annual Fly-In meetings on Capitol Hill during the week of April 23, 2018. The women work in the hardrock, coal and industrial minerals industries, and for companies that provide goods and services to mining companies. Since its inception in 1993, WMC has made annual trips to Washington, D.C. to advocate for a robust U.S. mining industry and to discuss issues of importance to the domestic mining industry with members of Congress and Congressional staff.

The 2018 WMC Fly-In efforts yielded 164 face-to-face meetings with Congressional offices and in 21 cases, meetings with elected officials themselves. WMC Fly-In participants also discussed critical and strategic minerals and reducing the country’s reliance on foreign sources of minerals with the U.S. Geological Survey and senior officials from both the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management. In a separate meeting, WMC participants met with a senior official from the U.S. Forest Service to discuss streamlining the permitting process on National Forest System lands, especially for initial mineral exploration projects, as well as maintaining access to critical and strategic minerals exploration areas.

In a special meeting held in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building within the White House compound, WMC was briefed by officials from the White House, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, and the Council on Environmental Quality. Some of the topics discussed at this meeting included streamlining preparation of National Environmental Policy Act documents; critical minerals and the country’s overreliance on mineral imports; and the importance of keeping public lands open to mineral exploration and development.

Barbara Coppola, WMC President, noted, “WMC continues to strongly deliver on our mission and education; advocacy regarding current mining industry challenges is more important than ever.”

First time Fly-In participant, Alissa Wood, corporate social responsibility specialist at Kinross Bald Mountain Mine, added, “This was my first time participating in the Women’s Mining Coalition Fly-In. It was an incredible experience to be on Capitol Hill, advocating to Congress and other policy makers about the important role the mining industry plays, not only to our economy, but also our daily lives. The breadth of knowledge that this diverse group of women brought to the Fly-In was inspiring, and I was proud to be a part of it.”

Ruth Carraher, co-founder of the Women’s Mining Coalition, stated, “The women participating this year and in all previous years do a wonderful job of representing their companies and highlighting the importance of our domestic mining industry.”

Nevada companies that were represented at the Fly-In include C & M Consultants, Coeur Mining Inc., Environmental Community Outreach Services, Gold Standard Ventures, Kestrel Resources LLC, Kinross Bald Mountain Mine, Kinross Round Mountain Mine, Newmont Mining Corp., Remote Energy Solutions, SRK Consulting (U.S.) Inc., Struhsacker Environmental Permitting & Government Relations Consulting, and Pershing Gold Corporation.
WMC continues to bring insight to the importance of modern mining, to advocate for a strong and productive domestic mining industry, and to showcase the professionalism of women who work in the mining industry. WMC’s mission is to deliver the message to our legislators that a strong mining industry is vitally important to our nation, our communities, our families, and our livelihoods, and that today’s regulations and modern technologies ensure responsible stewardship of our lands. WMC facilitates and provides the opportunity for our grassroots members to band together for a stronger voice with their congressional delegation and to network with other women working in the mining industry.

For more information about Women’s Mining Coalition, visit www.wmc-usa.org.

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