

April 11, 2022

The Honorable Larry Bucshon  
United States House of Representatives  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright  
United States House of Representatives  
2102 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bill Johnson  
United States House of Representatives  
2336 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Haley Stevens  
United States House of Representatives  
1510 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Bucshon, Cartwright, Johnson, and Stevens,

The Aluminum Association and its member companies appreciate your continued leadership and support for the domestic aluminum industry, as Co-Chairs of the Congressional Aluminum Caucus. As Congress begins work on the fiscal year 2023 appropriations bills, we urge you to provide robust funding for several programs that would assist our industry in meeting growing demand for our critical material.

The Aluminum Association represents the U.S. aluminum industry across the entire value chain. The U.S. aluminum industry supports 660,000 direct and indirect good paying unionized and non-unionized jobs, and the vast majority of the jobs in the U.S. aluminum industry are in value-added midstream and downstream production processes like aluminum rolling, extruding and recycling. The U.S. aluminum industry generates over \$170 billion in direct and indirect economic impact annually and contributes almost \$16 billion dollars a year in taxes. The industry has committed or invested more than \$4 billion in domestic manufacturing since 2013.

The U.S. aluminum industry is committed to making our material more resilient and sustainable, building a true circular economy for aluminum, and expanding the use of our highly transformational material. The priorities identified below will create good-paying American jobs and help domestic producers provide our essential aluminum for years to come.

1. **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Save our Seas 2.0** – (1) Fully fund the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act EPA post-consumer materials management grants at \$55 million and (2) include report language to ensure investments made by the materials recovery facilities (MRF) are material neutral. The Save Our Seas 2.0 Act instructs—but does not require—the EPA to consider having state applicants provide a description of how the proposed projects would result in the generation of less plastic waste. This optional requirement would unnecessarily limit the kinds of investments at MRFs that can benefit all materials—including plastic and aluminum. Aluminum is the most profitable item in the recycling bin and often makes the collection of less-valuable materials possible. While aluminum cans are recycled at far higher rates than glass or plastic, these rates have fallen below 50% in recent years. In industrial markets, aluminum recycling rates remain over 90%. Americans throw away some \$800 million worth of aluminum each year, creating a massive loss to the economy and the environment. Improving the nation’s consumer recycling system would put some of this material back to productive use and bolster domestic aluminum supply chains.
2. **Solar Energy Authorization of EA2020 Activities** – Fully fund the President’s FY23 Budget Request at \$534,575,000 the Department of Energy (DOE) solar energy research and development authorized in the Energy Act of 2020 to conduct research, development, demonstration, and commercialization of new solar energy technologies to meet our nation’s ambitious climate goals. According to the latest World Bank study, aluminum is the single most widely used material in solar photovoltaic (PV) applications. The metal accounts for more than 85% of most solar PV components—from frames to panels. The development of

this market will spur growth for aluminum producers, reduce overall emissions from the energy sector, and provide high-paying jobs to the American public.

3. **Aluminum Import Monitoring System** – Continue to fully fund the Department of Commerce's Aluminum Import Monitoring (AIM) and Analysis system at \$1.3 million to allow U.S. producers to access data and information on aluminum imports that will help identify and proactively address concerns about import surges, circumvention, or evasion of duties.
4. **Industrial Emissions Reductions Program** – Fully fund DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Advanced Manufacturing Office program at \$100 million to reduce industrial emissions by developing & commercializing new technology. The U.S. aluminum industry is committed to continued improvement in every aspect of aluminum production and recycling. While providing incomparable sustainability benefits in its use phase, producing aluminum—particularly new (or primary) aluminum—is an inherently energy-intensive process. The industry has already reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 58% since 2005, however, more work needs to be done. DOE's development, deployment, and commercialization of technologies will result in process and efficiency improvements for domestic producers of aluminum that result in less emissions.
5. **Critical Minerals Mining and Recycling Research** – Fully fund the IJA-authorized DOE initiative at \$167 million to address supply chain resiliency through the processing or recycling of critical minerals in the United States. Aluminum was designated by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as a critical mineral since 2018 and has been recognized by the Departments of Commerce and Defense as "vital" to national security. By investing in critical processing and recycling technology, the initiative will assist the industry in building a circular economy, reduce our nation's dependence on aluminum from nonmarket actors, and can potentially reduce our reliance on other critical materials.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Respectfully,



Virginia Gum Hamisevicz  
Vice President, Government Relations & International Programs  
The Aluminum Association

CC: Members of the Congressional Aluminum Caucus