MINERALS ARE CRITICAL TO A RENEWABLE FUTURE

ZINC
A metal we cannot live without

Scientific Properties
- Corrosion-resistant
- Conducts heat
- Conducts electricity
- Malleable
- Blocks UV Radiation
- Essential micro-nutrient for plants, humans, and animals

Uses for Zinc in the U.S.

HUMAN BODY
Zinc is an "essential trace element" needed for human health. The senses of smell and taste depend on it, and it is critical to healing wounds. It must be consumed regularly since the body does not store excess.

MEDICINE
Zinc is prescribed for those with certain diseases, like Wilson's disease, or a zinc deficiency, which causes stunted growth and slow wound healing. Its effectiveness with other illnesses is still being researched.

COSMETICS
It is used as a thickening agent, for lubrication, and as a sunscreen ingredient in makeup, lotions, soaps, and foot powders. It is also a common ingredient in creams for diaper rash and skin ointments for burn victims.

INDUSTRY
It is primarily used to coat steel and iron to protect it from rusting. It is also used in brass and rubber production, light bulb bases, and zinc batteries, which are increasingly being used instead of lithium ion batteries.

Alaska Zinc Production
698,218 tons mined in 2018

DID YOU KNOW?
Alaska has 3.5% of the world's zinc reserves. (2018)

$1.85 BILLION worth of zinc was produced in 2018

References:
https://dggs.alaska.gov
http://www.dnr.alaska.gov
www.blm.gov/alaska/minerals