

# *Time to Rock!*

## **Welcoming Message from the Incoming President:**

**By Vishnu Srinivasaraghavan**

It's time for NASLR to get into HEAVY METAL (reclamation)!

We are living under unprecedented times where commodity prices and large operational decisions change within a few hours. No matter what the policy outlook may be, one thing is for certain: our need for mined metals will only continue to rise.

Clean energy technologies such as windmills, solar panels, and batteries all require mined metals and minerals to be built. Demand for these materials is expected to increase at least 6-fold over the next 30 years according to the International Energy Agency. Unless we start mining asteroids, these operations will have to be mined on Earth, which will require an increased focus on proper reclamation.

As a fairly new member of NASLR, I quickly discovered the vast knowledgebase and absolute dedication to innovation in reclamation among its professional members. What impressed me most was the comradery between all those who participate in this organization. Despite being separated by States, we are a common office working toward the same goals.

Therefore, the overall vision this year is to extend our office further West to include the States that currently or could potentially mine the metals and minerals that will build tomorrow's energy infrastructure. Operations in our western States face similar environmental and reclamation issues as our current docket of States. This presents a great opportunity for collaboration.

Instrumental to this effort will be our newly elected Vice-President, Scot May from Pennsylvania DEP. As another newcomer, Scot's energy and enthusiasm bring a fresh perspective to NASLR. I am excited to see what

we will accomplish together. I would also like to extend a warm thank you to Mike Haney who fearlessly led NASLR as President last year. I have learned a lot working with him and will count on his continued guidance as I step up to this new role.

If there is a common theme that defines 2020 and 2021, it is "adaptability." The mining industry adapted to changing markets, State programs adapted to hybrid work schedules, and thanks to technology, NASLR adapted to Covid. The virtual conferences opened the organization to a broader audience who may not have had the opportunity to attend otherwise (including myself in 2020). I am looking forward to working with each of you as we build NASLR and emphasize the "National" part of our name. Here's to forging a great year ahead!

~Vishnu

