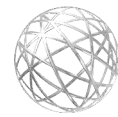




MARCH 8 #InspireInclusion

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



INTERNATIONAL
ALUMINIUM

Aluminium, shaping a better tomorrow

'Every time you speak up for yourself or others, you are an advocate'

Virginia Gum Hamisevicz, The Aluminum Association



Virginia Gum Hamisevicz, Vice President of Government Relations & International Programs at The Aluminum Association, shares her wisdom and encourages self-advocacy for young women in the aluminium sector.

How did you come to work for the aluminium industry?

With more than 20 years of experience advocating for many natural resources sectors, I joined The Aluminum Association in 2021 as Vice President, Government, Relations & International Programs. In this role, I oversee the development of policy priorities and advocacy strategy in support of the nation's aluminium industry.

Before joining The Aluminium Association, I served for more than a decade as Vice President, Government Affairs, at the National Mining Association, and I spent a brief time at the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

What about the aluminium industry most excites you?

Aluminium is innovative. It provides a vital foundation of modern life today and drives sustainable solutions for tomorrow. It's a powerful story to tell.

Who is your role model?

I was fortunate to begin my career on Capitol Hill, where I served as a legislative aide to Representative Shelley Moore Capito. In 2014, she became the first female Senator in West Virginia's history. As a West Virginian myself, I value Senator Capito's commitment to bipartisan cooperation and solutions that benefit West Virginia priorities, jobs, families and the nation as a whole.

We know the aluminium industry is considered a male-dominated sector. What do you think is the most pressing issue facing women today in the sector?

Having spent my entire career in male-dominated sectors, I know that my unique voice is not only wanted, but needed – and also welcomed. I am recognised by both my male and female peers as a trusted adviser and accomplished leader.

As a member of The Aluminum Association senior leadership team, I provide regular strategic advice and counsel to the association members to help them navigate Washington and understand how policies affect their companies.

How has the landscape changed since you first started in this industry?

As an Energy-Intensive Trade-Exposed industry,

aluminium is always in a state of transition and many of the same issues continue to plague the

sector. I've experienced first-hand this impact on communities and families. Fortunately, we are seeing a resurgence and investment in the domestic aluminium industry that we haven't seen for decades. As demand for aluminium continues to grow, it is important that we have sufficient resources and labour force to meet that demand.

What is your advice for young women aspiring to work in the sector?

You are your best advocate. You are the one person who understands your unique needs, goals and values. Every time you speak up for yourself or others, you are an advocate. I am surrounded by amazing women who

have shown me how to advocate for myself and those I care for.

Can you highlight some of your career successes?

Over the course of my 20-year career, I have developed a long list of successful issue advocacy campaigns, including federal and state-integrated government relations efforts on trade, sustainability and climate change. I have been honoured as a "Top Association Lobbyist" annually since joining The Aluminium Association by *The Hill* newspaper in Washington, DC.

We are seeing a resurgence and investment in the domestic aluminium industry that we haven't seen for decades. It is important we have sufficient labour force to meet that demand.