



April 14, 2021

Congressman Michael Waltz
213 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Waltz:

On behalf of ClearPath Action, a 501(c)4 organization working to accelerate policies for clean energy innovation, I am writing to support the *American Critical Mineral Independence Act*. This legislation would support expansion of domestic critical mineral capabilities. Specifically, the bill will:

- Expand resource assessment efforts to catalogue supply chain-wide capabilities;
- Establish research and development to accelerate innovation in critical minerals development strategies and technologies;
- Establish competitive technology grants and educational programming to facilitate a robust critical minerals workforce; and
- Help streamline and reduce unnecessary barriers in federal permitting.

Recent global events have revealed weaknesses in international supply chains. The Department of the Interior indicates that the U.S. is import-reliant on 31 of the 35 critical minerals essential to the economic and national security of the United States, and entirely import dependent on 14 of them. Expanding abilities to domestically produce these minerals and their related products secures the supply chain and enhances both security and innovation.

The *American Critical Mineral Independence Act* has the potential to play a crucial role in a clean energy economy. The production of technologies essential to a clean energy transition not only relies on a secure supply of critical minerals, but has increased demand for them in recent years. The critical minerals list includes lithium, cobalt, and graphite, necessary for energy storage; hafnium and uranium, necessary for fuel rods and nuclear fuel; and rare earth elements, necessary for wind turbines. If the U.S. aims to design, deploy, and export clean energy technology, it needs a secure supply of essential materials. It is vital to encourage domestic production of these resources to give American innovation the strongest foundation for success.

Thank you for your continued leadership to advance American clean energy. We stand ready to help pass this important legislation this Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rich Powell".

Rich Powell
Executive Director, ClearPath Action