

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader Schumer:

As we have seen over the past several months, COVID-19 has created immense global challenges felt across countries, populations, and economic sectors. It has also exposed grave vulnerabilities resulting from America's decades-long overreliance on foreign and often unstable sources to meet our national needs. The sudden shortage of necessary healthcare equipment this past spring was just one example. While the insecurity of many of our country's supply chains is not new, the threat posed by America's growing import reliance for critical minerals has become particularly apparent.¹

For many years, the United States has become increasingly dependent on countries like China, Russia, and others to meet our demand for critical minerals. These materials are used in high tech applications across sectors, found in everything from satellites to smartphones to electric vehicles. In fact, the International Energy Agency issued a report on May 6, 2020 highlighting the essential relationship between stable mineral supply chains and meeting the projected demand for clean energy technologies.² Minerals are also highly valuable in healthcare, used in antimicrobial hospital beds, specialized cancer treatments, x-ray machines, medical research and many other applications. The past months have underscored the urgency of prioritizing domestic critical mineral development to ensure our near and long-term economic stability and security.

As you know, bipartisan legislation introduced by U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Joe Manchin (D-WV), the American Mineral Security Act (S. 1317), was included in the Senate's recently introduced HEALS Act. The inclusion of this bill demonstrates growing bipartisan acknowledgement of the major problems presented by our uncertain critical minerals supply.³ Additionally, the American Critical Mineral Exploration and Innovation Act (H.R. 7061) was introduced in the House of Representatives in May. This legislation, which currently has 60 cosponsors, is a joint effort by the Republican leaders of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee, which builds on the American Mineral Security Act and takes a more significant and comprehensive approach to addressing this high-priority issue.

Both of these measures take commonsense steps to modernize our nation's approach to critical mineral procurement to boost U.S. production, build stable supply chains, create jobs, and strengthen national security. However, the additional provisions in the House bill are

¹ <https://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2020/6/full-committee-hearing-on-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-mineral-supply-chains>

² <https://www.iea.org/articles/clean-energy-progress-after-the-covid-19-crisis-will-need-reliable-supplies-of-critical-minerals>

³ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-mining-washington/u-s-house-launches-caucus-to-boost-strategic-minerals-production-idUSKCN24P1SK>

essential to increasing the efficiency of the permitting process and expanding the research and development activities that will ensure a secure U.S. critical minerals future for the next generation. As the House and Senate work to develop consensus on COVID-19 response and recovery legislation, we urge your support for the inclusion of these provisions to begin to reduce the United States' dependence on foreign minerals and mitigate this growing threat to the American people.

The continued outsourcing of our critical mineral needs leaves American manufacturing, technology, defense, clean energy, medicine, and other sectors crucial to our security vulnerable to the actions of our adversaries. We are hopeful that constructive policy can be enacted to reverse this threat and protect vital national interests.

We appreciate your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
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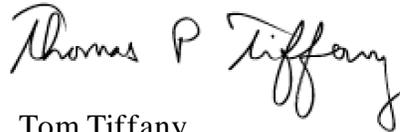
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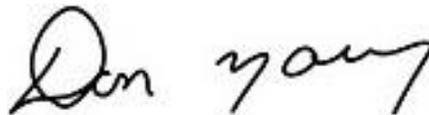
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