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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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June 27, 2025

Ms. Katie Sweeney
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
National Mining Association
101 Constitution Avenue NW
Suite 500 East
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Sweeney:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, to testify at the hearing entitled “Examining Ways to Enhance Our Domestic Critical Mineral Supply Chains.”

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Monday, July 14, 2025. Your responses should be mailed to Calvin Huggins Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed to Calvin.Huggins1@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Palmer".

Gary Palmer
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: Yvette Clarke, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Buddy Carter (R-GA)

1. China dominates global critical mineral processing, refining nearly 80% of cobalt, over 60% of lithium, and more than 90% of rare-earth magnets. Even if the U.S. could source all needed raw materials domestically, we would still rely on China for refining. Fortunately, American companies like Phoenix Tailings are pioneering zero-waste, nonhazardous refining technologies to change that.
 - a. How can the federal government better support domestic processors like Phoenix Tailings so that producers—such as the Jesup mine in Georgia’s First District—can send their raw materials to be refined here in the U.S. instead of China?
 - b. There are some small companies testing or deploying innovative methods of recycling critical minerals in the U.S., but they are not at commercial scale. How can these existing U.S. initiatives be scaled up?

The Honorable Rick Allen (R-GA)

1. Based on your interactions with critical mineral mining companies, what are the top impediments to them either establishing a footprint in the U.S. or expanding their footprint?
 - a. How can we overcome or lessen the effects of those impediments?
 - b. Are these impediments the same or different for companies wishing to start or expand critical minerals mid- or downstream operations in the U.S.? If so, how can we overcome or lessen the effects of those impediments for the mid- and downstream operations?