

Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Environment
“From Trash to Treasure: Examining Legislation to Support Domestic
Critical Mineral Recovery and Recycling”
June 22, 2026

Thank you, Chairman Palmer, for holding this hearing, and thank you to our witnesses for being here.

This Congress our Environment Subcommittee has explored creative solutions to identify sources of critical minerals and critical materials here at home so we are less dependent on foreign adversaries—like China.

For example, in June of 2025, the Subcommittee held a hearing on management of coal combustion residuals and evaluated the potential recovery of critical minerals from coal ash. In July of last year, the Subcommittee met to assess the state of our domestic recycling industry and opportunities to recover critical minerals from end-of-life electronics. This past April, we identified opportunities to modernize some of our major environmental laws to eliminate unnecessary barriers to stronger supply chains.

Securing access to critical minerals is a daunting task, with geopolitical tensions, trade policy complexities, and economic rivalries complicating efforts to shore up our supply chains. This

is why it is essential for all our federal agencies to work together and harmonize their efforts to make sure we are all rowing in the same direction.

The Environmental Protection Agency or “EPA” has unique expertise regarding recovery of valuable materials from waste streams and the complexities of our domestic recycling infrastructure.

Today, we will consider seven pieces of legislation to further the recovery of critical minerals from waste streams that are already located within our country and support the development of the domestic materials recycling, recovery, and refining industries.

I hope this endeavor can be part of our Committee’s strong tradition of bipartisanship. One of today’s introduced bills, H.R. 3717, the Legacy Mine Cleanup Act of 2025, already enjoys bipartisan support. And we will continue to work with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to hopefully reach bipartisan agreement on the three discussion drafts as well.

Thank you, and I yield back.