



Transmitted via Electronic/Email

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Pete Stauber
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 209 and the TAP American Energy Act Discussion Draft

Dear Chairman Stauber:

The Women's Mining Coalition (WMC) is writing to voice our strong support for your bill, *Permitting for Mining Needs (PERMIT MN) Act*, H.R. 209, and for Chairman Westerman's Discussion Draft of the *TAP American Energy Act*. Both bills address the significant barriers that the protracted, costly, and uncertain permitting processes create for the timely development of U.S. oil, gas, coal, and mineral resources.

Recent events like the war in Ukraine clearly underscore the need to strengthen the Nation's critical minerals supply chains in order to reduce our dangerous reliance on foreign adversaries for the minerals essential to our national defense, economy, infrastructure, manufacturing and technology sectors, and our clean energy future. China's hegemony over many critical minerals constitutes a serious threat to the U.S.

The Biden Administration's aggressive goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to address climate change through policies advocating nationwide electrification are unachievable without the minerals that are the raw materials needed to build EVs and energy storage batteries to supplement fossil fuels. The permitting obstacles that stand in the way of exploring for, developing, and responsibly mining domestic minerals like lithium, rare earths, copper, cobalt, and nickel must be solved before the U.S. can truthfully say we have implemented effective climate change policies. Without these minerals, the country's climate change policies are nothing more than hollow gestures.

Similarly, the country urgently needs to increase the production of fossil fuels in order to provide sources of reliable energy during the transition to renewable energy sources. This transition is going to take longer than the 2030 and 2050 deadlines established in current policies. In fact, it is likely to take many decades. Once the renewable energy transition goals have been met in the future, the U.S. will still need long-term sources of domestically-produced fossil fuels for the petrochemical industry and other purposes. Chairman Westerman's TAP American Energy Act discussion draft addresses the permit streamlining that needs to occur to support the long-term and responsible development of the country's fossil fuel and mineral resources.

We applaud your proposal in H.R. 209 to amend Section 40206 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 by extending its applicability to *all* minerals – not just those minerals on the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS') list of critical minerals. There are no "unimportant" minerals. All minerals are needed to support our economy, national defense, clean and conventional energy infrastructure, and our manufacturing and technology sectors.

For example, the chart below from the World Bank Group’s May 2020 report entitled *Minerals for Climate Action* emphasizes the importance of many minerals in our energy sector. Please note that copper, which is not currently in the USGS’ critical minerals list, is needed for all types of energy infrastructure. Recognizing the critical need to increase domestic production of copper, Chairman Manchin along with five of his Senate colleagues recently sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, requesting that she direct the U.S. Geological Survey to add copper to the critical minerals list.

	Wind	Solar photovoltaic	Concentrated solar power	Hydro	Geothermal	Energy Storage	Nuclear	Coal	Gas	Carbon capture and storage	Import Reliance	Exporting Countries
Aluminum*											> 75%	Jamaica, Brazil, Guinea, Guyana
Chromium											72%	Norway, Japan, China, Canada
Cobalt											78%	South Africa, Kazakhstan, Russia
Copper											35%	Chile, Canada, Mexico
Graphite											100%	China, Mexico, Canada, India
Indium											100%	China, Canada, Republic of Korea, Taiwan
Iron Ore											21%	Canada, Brazil, Republic of Korea
Lead											30%	Canada, Mexico, Republic of Korea, India
Lithium											>25%	Argentina, Chile, China
Manganese											100%	South Africa, Gabon, Australia, Georgia
Molybdenum											<20%	Peru, Chile, Canada, Mexico
Rare Earths**											100%	China, Estonia, Japan, Malaysia
Nickel											47%	Canada, Norway, Australia, Finland
Silver											68%	Mexico, Canada, Peru, Poland
Titanium											86%	Japan, Kazaksran, Ukraine, China, Russia
Vanadium											94%	Austria, Canada, Russia, Republic of Korea
Zinc											87%	Canada, Mexico, Australia, Peru
Total	10	8	2	8	6	11	11	9	8	6		

* Bauxite, ** Neodymium

Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/extractiveindustries/brief/climate-smart-mining-minerals-for-climate-action>

The U.S. is fortunate to have a significant geologic endowment of many minerals and fossil fuels. Unfortunately, the Biden Administration has implemented policies that put significant mineral and fuel resources off-limits to exploration and development. For example, the recent pre-emptive vetoes of proposed copper projects in Alaska and Minnesota will categorically prevent the responsible development of two world-class copper deposits. WMC strongly supports Chairman Westerman’s proposal in his discussion draft to put limits on the use of executive fiat to make mineral and fossil fuel resources unavailable for development.

The Honorable Pete Stauber
February 26, 2023
Page Three

WMC has focused for many years on the Nation's dangerous reliance on imports of critical minerals from foreign countries like China and Russia and the paucity of domestic mineral processing facilities. Today, the need to significantly increase the number of domestic mines, smelters, and refining facilities is more urgent than ever as the Biden Administration implements the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, which both require secure domestic sources of minerals.

We also believe that an "all-of-the-above" approach to meeting our energy needs is the only viable policy for the foreseeable future. It is inappropriate and unproductive to pit one form of energy against another. We need all forms of renewable and conventional energy to support our economy and keep our country safe. We have the technologies needed to produce these energy resources in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

For these reasons, WMC supports both H.R. 209 and Chairman Westerman's TAP American Energy Act Discussion Draft. We urge this committee to advance both proposals.

WMC is a grassroots organization whose mission is to advocate for today's modern domestic mining industry, which is essential to our Nation. Our membership includes over 200 women who work nationwide in hardrock, coal, and industrial minerals mining and in the energy, manufacturing, transportation, and service industry sectors.

We will be in Washington, D.C. from April 17 – 21 for our annual Fly-In and hope to have the opportunity to meet you and your staff to discuss the importance of strengthening the U.S. hardrock and coal mining sectors to supply the country with the mineral and energy resources needed for national security and our economic and social wellbeing. In the meantime, please contact us at (307) 281-0148 or at wearewmc@wmc-us.org if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Thank you for your consideration and this opportunity to submit this letter for the record for the February 28, 2023 hearing before the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

Sincerely yours,



Emily Hendrickson
WMC President



Wanda Burget
WMC Manager

cc: The Honorable Bruce Westerman