

June 11, 2024

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman:

I write to you on behalf of the Copper Development Association (CDA) to share our strong endorsement and support of HR 8446, the Critical Mineral Consistency Act of 2024. CDA is the U.S.-based not-for-profit association of the global copper industry, bringing the value of copper and its alloys to society to solve the challenges of today and tomorrow. We influence the use of copper and copper alloys through research, development, and education, as well as technical and end-user support. We are the voice of the copper industry.

Today, the U.S. copper industry supports more than 395,000 direct, indirect, and induced jobs and more than \$160 billion in economic output. The U.S. copper industry is a key national driver contributing mightily to the economic success and national security of the United States. Copper is also referred to as the “metal of electrification” because of its high electrical conductivity and use across all energy transition applications including EV batteries and storage, wind energy, solar photovoltaics, transmission and distribution, and other low-carbon energies such as hydrogen.

These characteristics and the projected doubling in demand for copper by 2035 are some of the reasons why the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) added copper to their Critical Materials list last year. While this recognition is certainly welcome, exclusion from the USGS Critical Minerals list has kept copper from being eligible for benefits, include DOE Title 17 financing, FAST-41 permitting support, and others. HR 8446 eliminates this disadvantage by adding copper and other important clean energy materials to the USGS list.

HR 8446 not only has our support, but several bipartisan energy and electrification groups in Washington also favor the legislation. These include:

- Zero-Emission Transportation Association (ZETA)
- National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
- Business Council on Sustainable Energy (BCSE)
- Transformer Manufacturers Association of America (TMAA)

We are also heartened by the fact that USGS themselves in their [written testimony](#) to the House Committee on Natural Resources supports HR 8446 as they wrote “As a possible way to manage the two lists, the USGS supports this bill.”

Given the support for the legislation by us and others, including USGS themselves, we are hopeful the Committee will vote favorable to support HR 8446.

Regards,



Adam Estelle
President & CEO