



September 14, 2026

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

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Stauber
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Yassamin Ansari
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman, Ranking Member Huffman, Chairman Stauber, and Ranking Member Ansari:

We write on behalf of Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE) to express our strong support for H.R. 9640, the *Earth MRI Reauthorization Act*, and to urge the Committee to advance it to the House floor before the program's authorities expire.

SAFE is an action oriented, non-partisan organization dedicated strengthening the energy and national security of the United States and its allies. SAFE advocates for policies that will bolster U.S. critical minerals security as the People's Republic of China continues to leverage its dominance over global supply chains, threatening U.S. economic growth and military readiness. This bill will advance efforts to reshore critical mineral mining and processing by allowing the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to continue discovering and cataloging the nation's mineral resources.

Critical minerals are the key building blocks for the manufactured goods that underpin U.S. energy and national security. Domestic manufacturers of batteries, permanent magnets, military aircraft, precision-guided munitions, and automobiles all depend on secure access to these inputs.

Congress authorized the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) in 2020 to give developers a greater understanding of U.S. critical minerals resources and derisk exploration investments. As the United States and its partners work to diversify extraction, processing, and downstream manufacturing away from China—the dominant producer at every stage of the value chain—a complete picture of our domestic resource base is necessary to achieve those goals.

Since its inception, Earth MRI has partnered with numerous State Geological Surveys to collect high-quality, publicly available geophysical data that provides businesses and policymakers the information

they need to develop U.S. mineral resources. By 2027, USGS is on track to have mapped 50% of critical minerals focus areas and 35% of the United States' total landmass. Prior to the creation of the program, only 7% of the United States was covered.

With Earth MRI authorization expiring this year, it is crucial for Congress to pass this bill to give USGS additional time and resources to complete their remaining work. We were encouraged to see broad bipartisan support for Earth MRI at the Committee hearing in July and hope to see swift passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Avery Ash
CEO, SAFE

Abigail Hunter
Executive Director, SAFE Center for Critical Minerals Strategy