

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Natural Resources

Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2024

Dr. Steven Feldgus
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
US Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Dr. Feldgus:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources at a legislative hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, on the following bills:

- **H.R. 2925 (Rep. Amodei)**, "*Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2023*";
- **H.R. 6862 (Rep. Lamborn)**, To amend the FAST Act to include certain mineral production activities as a covered project, and for other purposes;
- **H.R. 7003 (Rep. DelBene)**, "*National Landslide Preparedness Act Reauthorization Act of 2024*"; and
- **H.R. 7004 (Rep. Curtis)**, To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to amend references of gilsonite to asphaltite.

Your testimony was extremely helpful in defining the Subcommittee's understanding of the issue and I appreciate the effort you took to prepare and present your testimony. While many questions were asked during the hearing, the Subcommittee has additional questions, attached, for your reply.

Please forward your responses to Lonnie Smith, Clerk of the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, at Lonnie.smith@mail.house.gov by February 21, 2024. Your assistance in meeting this deadline is requested, as failure to meet it will be noted in the printed transcript.

Once again, thank you for your extensive effort in making this a valuable hearing.

Sincerely,



Pete Stauber
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Chairman

Enclosure

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Legislative Hearing
1324 Longworth House Office Building
January 31, 2024
2:00 PM

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Questions from Rep. Lamborn for Dr. Feldgus Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior

1. Dr. Feldgus, mineral mining was added to the FAST-41 only a few years ago, have there been any concerns that mining companies have been taking advantage of this acceleration process outside of the intent of the law? I don't understand when mines that are not even running yet are having these expedited opportunities stripped away.
2. The Administration has said that they are prioritizing national defense and energy security priorities, and I also agree with this sentiment, it is what much of my time in Congress has worked hard to protect. Dr. Feldgus, would you concur that many of the green energies the Administration is prioritizing uses some of these hardrock minerals, such as Nickel and Copper use in electric vehicles? I believe these policies just seem contradictory to what the Biden administration is saying their priorities for national security, when these policy decisions are being made behind closed doors that undermine an all of the above approach to the energy sector. Additionally, the Natural Security issues regarding domestic mining vs the chokehold that China has on all mining and mineral refinement is very concerning to me.

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Questions from Rep. DelBene for Dr. Steven Feldgus, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior

1. What have been the barriers to full implementation of the National Landslide Preparedness Act to date?
2. What are the near-term priorities the Department of the Interior is working on with respect to implementation of the Act, and how will they be affected if the Act expires?