

**Testimony for EMR Legislative Hearing
January 31, 2024**

HR 7004

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to amend references of gilsonite to asphaltite.

I am incredibly proud of Utah's mining industry, which is why I introduced this bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act and change gilsonite references to asphaltite (AS-fall-tight).

Gilsonite is currently only found in the Uintah Basin. The term Gilsonite was trademarked in the late 1800s. Because gilsonite was used as a term in the Mineral Leasing Act, adversaries like Iran are using it to sell an inferior product under the same name.

The Mineral Leasing Act needs to be updated to ensure this critical mineral is produced in the US, as opposed to similar but inferior products from our adversaries.

Additionally, I know Utahns mine more sustainably than anywhere else in the world. We should be proud of our resources and ability to share them with the world in a responsible way.

Moving forward we will need minerals. Do we want them from the United States or from China, Russia and Iranian shell companies?