

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2024

Dr. Colin Williams
Mineral Resource Program Coordinator
United States Geological Survey
P.O. Box 158
350 N. Akron Rd.
Moffett Field, CA 94035

Dear Dr. Williams,

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources at a legislative hearing on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, on the following bills:

- **H.R. 6395 (Rep. Curtis)**, "*Recognizing the Importance of Critical Minerals in Healthcare Act of 2023*";
- **H.R. 8446 (Rep. Ciscomani)**, To amend the Energy Act of 2020 to include critical materials in the definition of critical mineral, and for other purposes; and
- **H.R. 8450 (Rep. Cammack)**, "*Phosphate and Potash Protection Act of 2024*".

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 Jacob Greenberg, Clerk, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, at Jacob.Greenberg@mail.house.gov by June 24, 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

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Legislative Hearing
1334 Longworth House Office Building
June 4, 2024
11:15 AM

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Questions from Rep. Westerman for Dr. Williams, Mineral Resources Program
Coordinator, USGS

1. In your testimony you say the next critical minerals list will include an updated methodology which will incorporate a forecasting approach, and you specifically mention looking at scenarios involving earthquakes.
 - a. How much of a factor will potential natural disasters like earthquakes play in the new forecasting methodology?
2. Dr. Williams, how would adding the Department of Health and Human Services as a collaborative agency during the Critical Mineral List determination process aide USGS in cross-sectoral examination of the mineral markets?
 - a. How would enacting H.R. 6395 aide USGS in its mission to analyze mineral supply chains' role in national and economic security?
3. Dr. Williams, how does the methodology that USGS and DOE each employ to determine their critical mineral and critical material lists differ?
 - a. Why is continuing to allow USGS and DOE to each determine eligibility for minerals under their respective purviews, as H.R. 8450 proposes, important?

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Questions from Rep. Curtis for Dr. Williams, Mineral Resources Program Coordinator,
USGS

1. Reliance on foreign anode suppliers persists, and the U.S. is nearly 100% reliant on imports of anode materials. U.S. leadership in this critical mineral is possible, and ensuring its listing on the USGS list of critical minerals is another market signal and accelerator to showcase our domestic capabilities. Can you discuss the importance of research and development, and the domestic sourcing of these critical minerals, including silicon and silicon carbide in next-generation battery technology?