



Testimony for the Record

U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources

“Legislative Hearing on H.R. 1501, H.R. 2969, H.R. 4781, H.R. 5929, H.R. 7126 and H.R. 7458”

February 24, 2026

America’s mining industry supplies the essential materials necessary for every sector of our economy – from technology and healthcare to energy, transportation, infrastructure, and national security. The National Mining Association (NMA) is the only national trade organization that serves as the voice of the U.S. mining industry and the hundreds of thousands of American workers it employs before Congress, the federal agencies, the judiciary, and the media, advocating for public policies that will help America fully and responsibly utilize its vast natural resources.

We work to ensure America has secure and reliable supply chains, abundant and affordable energy, and American-sourced materials – all delivered under world-leading environmental, safety, and labor standards. The NMA has a membership of nearly 300 companies and organizations involved in every aspect of mining, from producers and equipment manufacturers to service providers.

Introduction

The National Mining Association (NMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on legislation being considered at today’s subcommittee hearing. At a time when energy and mineral demand is soaring, we need federal policies that not only strengthen these supply chains but provide the clarity and regulatory certainty the mining industry depends on to make generational investments and be competitive on a global scale.

From ensuring access to mineralized federal lands and continuity across federal land management policy jurisdictions to codifying that mining, and mining related activities, are covered under the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, the bills you are considering today have a shared goal of helping to meet the energy and mineral demands of our nation’s economic and national security.

Legislative Views

Below are the NMA’s specific views on the legislation:

- Protecting Domestic Mining Act of 2025 (H.R. 1501) – The NMA strongly supports H.R. 1501 which would codify mining as a covered project under the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council. This legislation will ensure that the mining industry is eligible to receive all the permitting benefits given to other industry projects already covered.
- Rare Earth Solutions and Carbon Utilization Enhancement (RESCUE) Act of 2025 (H.R. 4781) – H.R. 4781 would amend the FAST Act to add activities relating to the extraction, recovery, or processing of locatable minerals and rare earth elements from acid mine drainage, mine tailings, coal, coal waste, coal processing waste, or pre- or post-combustion coal byproducts. The NMA supports this legislation as it provides greater opportunities to secure the mineral resources our nation needs from non-traditional sources.
- Critical Minerals Supply Chain Resiliency Act (H.R. 5929) – The NMA strongly supports this bicameral and bipartisan legislation to allow projects that receive Defense Production Act (DPA) funds to be treated as a “covered project” under the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council’s permitting dashboard. This legislation will ensure that mining projects already under stringent review of the DPA do not waste taxpayer funds mired in existing permitting delays and duplication.
- Domestic Opportunities for Resource Exploration (ORE) Act (H.R. 7458) – The NMA has long supported efforts to bring U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management notice-level requirements into alignment, as accomplished by this legislation. This legislation will allow small-scale exploration activities to avoid delays and facilitate new discoveries by codifying notice-level requirements for exploration activities.
- Securing Essential and Critical U.S. Resources and Elements (SECURE) Minerals Act of 2026 (H.R. 7126) – This legislation establishes a Strategic Resilience Reserve operated by a wholly owned government corporation. While the NMA supports the creation of a strategic mineral reserve and appreciates the work the bill’s sponsors have done to create a legal framework for such a reserve, the bill should be strengthened by prioritizing domestic extraction of feedstocks to ensure the U.S. is building domestic productive capacity essential to resource security. Additionally, H.R. 7126 unnecessarily excludes uranium and coal in the reserve. The NMA is also concerned that H.R. 7126 may not align with the administration’s Project Vault, which could create conflicts moving forward. The NMA looks forward to working with the bill’s sponsor on these issues going forward.
- Finding Opportunities for Resource Exploration (ORE) Act (H.R. 2969) – This legislation would allow the Secretary of the Interior to enter into memoranda of understanding with foreign nations for the purpose of scientific and technical cooperation in the mapping of critical minerals and rare earth elements to increase the security and resilience of international supply chains. The NMA believes the administration should first focus on strengthening the Department

of the Interior and the U.S. Geological Survey's efforts to complete mineral mapping of the U.S.

Conclusion

The NMA congratulates the committee on an important hearing and looks forward to working with committee staff and the bills' sponsors to address America's supply chain insecurity and enhance America's economic and strategic competitiveness. This can best be done by prioritizing support for our domestic mining industry and enhancing its ability to compete on a global scale while maintaining our nation's world-leading safety and environmental standards.