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Re: Remarks on the SECURE Minerals Act of 2026 and the Finding ORE Act

Attn:
Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources

Opening Remarks

Chairman Stauber, Ranking Member Ansari, and Members of the Subcommittee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I serve as Chief Executive Officer of Principal Mineral, where I lead a dedicated team operating at the intersection of capital markets, scaled industrial development, and critical mineral supply chains. I have previously engaged with Congress on market structure and resilience frameworks in this sector.

The United States can and should position itself at the center of global critical mineral markets. Leadership in this sector will determine who shapes pricing power, capital flows, supply security, and even technological innovation for decades to come. Achieving that leadership means building an integrated industrial system, not a collection of disconnected projects.

Global critical mineral markets today are characterized by concentrated control, opaque pricing, recurring episodes of price volatility, and the demonstrated ability of foreign state-backed actors to influence price and supply in ways that distort long-term investment decisions. In capital-intensive industries with multi-year development timelines, sustained price suppression or extreme volatility raises the cost of capital and delays final investment decisions. When capital cannot model forward price stability with confidence, projects stall, innovation slows, and supply concentration deepens.



Critical minerals policy is a systems policy. It requires alignment across permitting timelines, capital formation, price transparency, coordination with allies, environmental standards, and certainty around defense industrial base needs.

When these elements operate together, capital becomes confident, investment horizons extend, and industrial capacity scales. Resilience becomes a structural feature of the economy. In that environment, America's advantages — deep and trusted capital markets, competitive innovation ecosystems, and entrepreneurial drive — compound rather than hesitate.

The SECURE Minerals Act of 2026 institutionalizes this approach. By establishing the Strategic Resilience Reserve as a wholly owned government corporation and equipping it with dedicated capabilities in market data, risk modeling, and production standards. The Act moves the United States from reactive intervention to proactive market stewardship. It creates the institutional capacity to monitor volatility, evaluate systemic risk, and reinforce competitive conditions before instability undermines investment.

In addition, the Finding ORE Act strengthens the long-term development pipeline that will determine future supply security. Production capacity ten and fifteen years from now is shaped by exploration and resource definition decisions made today. By authorizing the United States Geological Survey to enter into formal cooperation agreements with partner countries for critical mineral mapping and resource assessment, the Act expands visibility into prospective deposits and aligns technical standards across allied jurisdictions.

Regulatory predictability directly determines the cost of capital. When timelines are clear and consistently applied, institutional investors commit long-duration capital; when they are uncertain, projects do not advance.

Expanding domestic and partner-country production while reducing concentrated dependence shifts pricing power, strengthens strategic leverage, and stabilizes downstream manufacturing supply chains.

Consistent environmental and labor standards prevent a race to the bottom, reward responsible operators, and ensure that production growth aligns with long-term public trust and allied credibility.

Leadership in critical minerals will be determined by the durability of our institutions and the clarity of our policy framework. Congress can build that enduring foundation now, and in doing so, secure American leadership in this sector for decades to come.

Thank you. I look forward to your questions.