

April 27, 2026

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Stauber
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral
Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Yassamin Ansari
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral
Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman, Ranking Member Huffman, Chairman Stauber, and Ranking Member Ansari:

On behalf of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), we respectfully submit this letter for the record for the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources' April 29 oversight hearing, "Powering the 21st Century with American Copper." ITI is a global technology trade association that represents companies that design, build, and deliver the models, hardware, software, data centers, cloud services, networking solutions, and applications that make up the American technology stack. As the Subcommittee examines America's copper supply, we urge Congress to view copper not simply as a mining issue, but as an input vital to U.S. innovation leadership, energy security, and competitiveness.

S&P Global's recent report, *Copper in the Age of AI*, makes clear why this hearing is so timely. The report projects that global copper demand will rise 50 percent by 2040, from 28 million metric tons to 42 million metric tons.¹ The demand increase is driven by economic demands, the energy transition and grid expansion, defense modernization and AI.

For the technology sector, copper is vital to ensure the U.S. has the reliable power necessary for AI, data centers, advanced manufacturing, and more. As data centers that power daily American life and cutting-edge technological innovation in AI continue to grow, they will need access to substantially more power. That growth does not just require more generation; it

¹ S&P Global Energy & Market Intelligence, *Copper in the Age of AI: Challenges of Electrification* (S&P Global, January 8, 2026), <https://www.spglobal.com/en/research-insights/special-reports/copper-in-the-age-of-ai>.

requires more transmission, more distribution, more transformers, more switchgear, more switchboards, and more backup power equipment, all of which are copper-intensive. Copper demand exists throughout the data center ecosystem, including power delivery wiring, distribution equipment, servers, cooling, and backup systems. These copper-intensive systems are central to the White House's priorities around grid resilience and electrification and directly affect the energy affordability concerns that Americans face across the country.

Today, the supply of copper is not keeping pace with demand. Without meaningful expansion of supply, there will be a projected 10 million metric tons of copper shortfall by 2040.² Congress must take action to increase the supply of this vital input for the power grid and countless other applications, from data centers to cars. To do so, Congress should look at the current barriers that slow new supply, like permitting reform measures to quickly bring new production online. Right now, the average copper mine takes 17 years to move from discovery to production.³ For example, the Resolution Copper Mine in Arizona has faced years of permitting and other regulatory delays even though Congress passed the initial land exchange law in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). ITI strongly supports Congress moving comprehensive permitting reform so we can get new copper production, energy generation, and transmission. Recycling and recovery will also need to be part of the solution, even if they cannot close the supply gap on their own. S&P Global estimates that with higher recycling rates, end-of-life recycled copper supply could increase by roughly 6 million metric tons by 2040, and total recycled supply could reach 10.4 million metric tons, or 34 percent of total supply.⁴ Ensuring there is a domestic U.S. recycled copper ecosystem, in order to leverage existing supply, scrap, and feedstock while additional sources are built out, is necessary for copper to continue to fuel America's energy grid expansion. Finally, there is a data gap on supply chain constraints further downstream that can have an impact on availability of copper. The process stage from highly-refined cathode to end user copper has a visibility gap that could be improved through more data collection.

Elevated global copper prices driven by demand, the grid build-out, and investments in energy production are significantly compounded by Section 232 tariffs, which add substantial additional cost and have yet to yield benefits for domestic copper producers or users. These higher input costs flow through to finished equipment and are a meaningful contributor to longer lead times for key components necessary to building a stronger power grid, even as manufacturers maintain or increase production. Right now, companies rely on trusted partners in Latin America - particularly Peru and Chile - where existing copper production and processing facilities support U.S. energy infrastructure needs. As these partnerships help bridge supply

² S&P Global Energy & Market Intelligence, *Copper in the Age of AI: Challenges of Electrification* (S&P Global, January 8, 2026), <https://www.spglobal.com/en/research-insights/special-reports/copper-in-the-age-of-ai>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

while U.S. capacity continues to scale, the Administration should consider how Section 232 tariffs impact capacity and market demands. In addition, policymakers should consider looking at the actual copper market structures and participant/trading rules, which frequently influence copper pricing in a way that exacerbates actual shortages.

In our view, Congress and the administration should take action in several areas. First, ensure appropriate federal investments and data collection by the Department of Energy in the domestic supply chain of copper. Second, pass permitting reform to ensure a domestic copper supply can come online quickly without unnecessary delays. Third, advance a predictable and transparent trade policy framework that allows the U.S. to source copper from close friends and allies while the domestic supply comes online.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement for the record. We appreciate the Subcommittee's attention to the critical role that American copper will play in powering the 21st century economy and welcome continued engagement on policies that strengthen supply chain resilience, support innovation, and reinforce U.S. competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bitko
Executive Vice President of Public Sector
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)