

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Legislative Hearing
1324 Longworth House Office Building
July 21, 2026
10:15AM

- **H.R. 8003 (Rep. Deluzio)**, *“Expanding the Fast Track Act of 2026”*
- **H.R. 9640 (Rep. Wittman)**, *“Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026”*
- **H.R. 9646 (Rep. Hurd)**, *“Quantum-Enhanced Critical Minerals Mapping Act of 2026”*

Questions from Rep. Fulcher for Mr. Matthew Kinsella, CEO, Inflection

1. In your testimony you mentioned that this technology can reduce speculative drilling. To your best estimate, to what extent will it be able to reduce this part of the mining process?

As I noted in my testimony, speculative drilling is the single largest cost driver and environmental barrier in minerals exploration, a consequence of not being able to see clearly underground before breaking ground. By resolving subsurface density in a single airborne or vehicle-based survey pass, quantum gravity gradiometry lets explorers confirm and precisely locate targets that today can only be characterized by drilling, allowing activity to be concentrated where deposits exist and reducing the dry holes that increase cost and surface disturbance.

The extent of that cost and disturbance reduction is deposit-specific, depending on geology, deposit type, and depth. Rather than offer a single projection, I would emphasize the fact that H.R. 9646 is built to answer this exact question with data: it requires a head-to-head comparison of quantum-enhanced surveys against classical methods and an explicit assessment of the potential to reduce speculative drilling.

This matters acutely in states like Idaho, where world-class critical mineral potential, from the cobalt belt near Salmon to antimony resources at Stibnite, sits beneath extensive federal land where Idahoans hunt, fish, and graze cattle. Better subsurface data, shared with the state geological survey and industry, means fewer and better-placed holes, a smaller footprint, and a faster path from a prospective target to a producing domestic mine that reduces our dependence on China. As new data becomes available, I would be pleased to share it and brief the Committee on specific use cases as the technology advances.