

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2021

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

Our nation's energy security, economic security, and national security depends on strengthening our domestic supply chains for critical minerals and materials used in America's energy and transportation infrastructure. As the leading producer of oil and natural gas in the world and a net energy exporter, America is more energy secure today than at any point in our nation's history. We have significant concerns about shifting away from affordable, reliable, and domestically produced energy. As you know, China produces 90% of the silicon wafers used for solar panels and 80% of the rare earth minerals that go into wind turbines and electric vehicle motors.¹

Congress reached bipartisan consensus with the passage of the Energy Act of 2020 to address our growing reliance on critical mineral imports, especially from China. We urge you to work with Congress and the relevant committees of jurisdiction to ensure the recently authorized programs are meeting their objectives.

The Energy Act of 2020, contained within Division Z of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260), authorizes several new programs to be administered by the Department of Energy to provide resources for execution of a strategy to reduce our critical mineral import dependence. These newly authorized programs will help the United States reduce its reliance on China by improving our understanding of supply chain weaknesses, increasing domestic production through mining and advanced separation technologies, and developing alternatives to critical minerals in short supply.

We urge you to prioritize these new critical minerals programs in the Department's FY 2022 Budget Request. We also urge you to coordinate with the heads of other Federal agencies, as required by law, to secure the nation's critical minerals and materials supply chain. Failure to adequately address these challenges risks undermining American energy security, our economy, and our national security.

¹ https://csis-website-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/210224_Ladislav_Industrial_Policy.pdf?DRja.V6axwyBE_PV6Chmdi5k2VqOq33n;
<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/mineral-commodity-summaries>

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you on these issues.

Sincerely,



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



Robert Latta
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



David McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
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Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



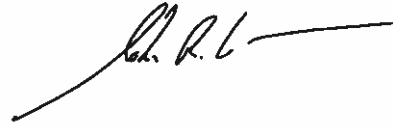
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Gary Palmer
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



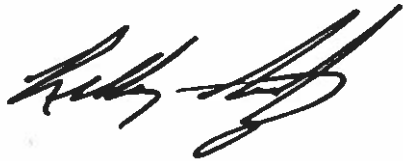
John Curtis
Member of Congress



Greg Pence
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John Joyce, M.D.
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Kelly Armstrong
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