Chairman Lowenthal, Ranking Member Gosar I would like to say I am surprised we are actually having this conversation but nothing the majority is doing has made much sense since they took over the House of Representatives in January.

For the last six months the Democrats have been on a mission to prove Russian collusion, Russian election tampering, and now with this legislation they are willing forcing the Untied States to be dependent on Russia for our National Security.

Wyoming is America’s leader in uranium production.

In 2017, Wyoming mines produced an estimated one million pounds of yellowcake, which accounts for 78% of the nation’s total.

However, domestic uranium production makes up less than 5% of total domestic uranium consumption.

Ceding technological leadership in high-tech nuclear applications allows other nations a clear advantage in making future advances and in setting international standards for safety, security, and nonproliferation. Currently, America’s fleet of nuclear reactors depend overwhelmingly on uranium that is mined, converted, or enriched outside of the U.S. Nuclear energy makes up around 20% of the electric grid.

Additionally, uranium is a critical component in many defense activities, from powering the reactors that drive our naval vessels to weapons activities critical to our nation’s nuclear deterrence. Forgive me if I don’t think we should be relying on the Russians to meet our nation’s uranium needs.

The listing of Uranium as a critical mineral within President Trump’s Executive Order was intended to support and expedite the exploration, processing, and production of critical minerals. This legislation would remove that designation and impede the U.S. production forcing the United States to depend on Kazakhstan, a former member of the Soviet Union, and within Russia’s sphere of influence not only for energy production but also critical elements of our national security.