



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Republican Members
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Date: Friday, February 20, 2026
Subject: Legislative Hearing on 6 Bills

The Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals Resources will hold a legislative hearing on six bills: H.R. 1501 (Rep. Shreve), “*Protecting Domestic Mining Act of 2025*”; H.R. 2969 (Rep. Wittman), “*Finding Opportunities for Resource Exploration Act*” or the “*Finding ORE Act*”; H.R. 4781 (Rep. Barr), “*Rare Earth Solutions and Carbon Utilization Enhancement Act of 2025*” or the “*RESCUE Act of 2025*”; H.R. 5929 (Rep. Barr), “*Critical Minerals Supply Chain Resiliency Act*”; H.R. 7126 (Rep. Wittman), “*Securing Essential and Critical U.S. Resources and Elements Minerals Act of 2026*” or the “*SECURE Minerals Act of 2026*”; and H.R. 7458 (Rep. Hageman), “*Domestic Opportunities for Resource Exploration Act*” or the “*Domestic ORE Act*”.

The hearing will take place on **Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., in room 1334 Longworth House Office Building.**

Member offices are requested to notify Kenna Cline (Kenna.Cline@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026, if their Member intends to participate in the hearing.

I. KEY MESSAGES

- Critical minerals and rare earth elements (REEs) are essential for national security, energy security, industrial competitiveness, and economic growth. Advanced technologies are increasingly reliant on critical minerals and REEs, boosting demand for adequate, reliable, and affordable supplies.
- The U.S. has become dangerously dependent on imported minerals, the result of decades of public policy decisions that have undermined investment in, and development of, domestic mineral resources.
- Global development of critical minerals is highly concentrated; China alone controls approximately 60 percent of production, 90 percent of processing, and 75 percent of manufacturing.¹

¹ Kevin Stitt, “A Mineral Strategy for American Security,” The Wall Street Journal, July 16, 2023, <https://www.wsj.com/opinion/a-mineral-strategy-for-american-security-permitting-reform-oklahoma-china-8eb213f0?msockid=2ead81b332816ce3308b97c533426d45>.

- Broadening the scope of FAST-41-eligible projects is necessary to ensure national security and stability, incentivize the quick recovery of critical minerals, and reindustrialize the nation.
- Similarly, the U.S. must streamline the permitting and development of domestic supply chains for critical minerals, including exploration, mining and processing, and work with its allies to develop additional global sources and reliable markets.

II. WITNESSES

Panel I (Members of Congress):

- *To Be Announced*

Panel II (Outside Experts)

- **Mr. Mark Compton**, Executive Director, American Exploration & Mining Association, Spokane Valley, WA
- **Mr. Sean Pi**, Founding Partner, Heeney Capital, West Palm Beach, FL
- **Mr. Adam Johnson**, CEO, Principal Minerals, Southlake, TX
- **Ms. Chelsea Hodgkins**, Senior Auto Supply Chains Policy Advocate, Public Citizen, Washington, D.C. [*Minority Witness*]

III. BACKGROUND

[H.R. 1501 \(Rep. Shreve\), “Protecting Domestic Mining Act of 2025”](#)

The Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act)² established, in Title 41 (FAST-41), the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC), which was reauthorized via the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.³ FPISC serves as a convenor and project manager for federal agencies and stakeholders to bring efficiency and transparency to the permitting process.⁴ To accomplish those goals, FPISC has created a permitting dashboard to track “the status of federal environmental reviews and authorizations for covered projects.”⁵

During President Trump’s first term, FPISC made mining projects eligible for expedited permitting through the FAST-41 process.⁶ This much-needed action gave domestic mining projects access to a streamlined, coordinated, and transparent permitting process, underscoring the president’s commitment to unleashing American mineral dominance. Later, however, the Biden administration published a proposed rule narrowing FAST-41 coverage for mining projects, which would have made only critical mineral mining projects, rather than all mining

² Pub. Law No. 114-94.

³ Pub. Law No. 117-58.

⁴ Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, “Our Mission and What We Do,” <https://www.permitting.gov/about/our-mission>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, “Adding Mining as a Sector of Projects Eligible for Coverage Under Title 41 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act,” Federal Register, January 8, 2021, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/08/2021-00088/adding-mining-as-a-sector-of-projects-eligible-for-coverage-under-title-41-of-the-fixing-americas>.

projects, eligible for streamlined permitting.⁷ The proposed rule would have exacerbated the country's dependence on foreign adversaries for mineral production and further threatened national security. Fortunately, the Biden administration never finalized this proposal.

H.R. 1501, sponsored by Representative Jefferson Shreve (R-IN-06), would prohibit any future administration from finalizing or implementing the Biden-era proposed rule, which would severely impede domestic mineral investment and resource independence. The bill would also amend the FAST Act to add mining as a covered project eligible for the FAST-41 process. This would provide enduring stability and assurance for both regulators and producers by limiting a future administration's ability to, once again, thrust the industry and country into uncertainty. H.R. 1501 advances President Trump's agenda by codifying key elements of Executive Order (E.O.) 14241, *Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production*⁸ and E.O. 14154, *Unleashing American Energy*.⁹

[H.R. 2969 \(Rep. Wittman\), "Finding Opportunities for Resource Exploration Act" or the "Finding ORE Act"](#)

Bilateral international cooperation is a key pillar of President Trump's strategy to secure critical mineral supply chains. Throughout 2025, the Trump administration negotiated agreements with allies, including Australia¹⁰ and Japan,¹¹ to expand investments in mining and processing and coordinate on geologic mapping initiatives. More recently, on February 4, 2026, Secretary of State Rubio hosted delegations from over 50 nations at the inaugural Critical Minerals Ministerial in Washington, D.C.¹² Following this historic gathering, the U.S. signed 11 new bilateral critical minerals frameworks or memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with: Argentina, the Cook Islands, Ecuador, Guinea, Morocco, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan.¹³

As the lead federal agency for geologic mapping and data analysis, USGS plays a central role in supporting cooperation with foreign partners on critical minerals development. The USGS Organic Act¹⁴ authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), acting through USGS, to "examine the geological structure, mineral resources, and products" outside of the national domain "determined by the Secretary to be in the national interest."¹⁵ These initiatives are then

⁷ Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, "Revising Scope of the Mining Sector of Projects That Are Eligible for Coverage Under Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act," Federal Register, September 22, 2023, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/09/22/2023-20270/revising-scope-of-the-mining-sector-of-projects-that-are-eligible-for-coverage-under-title-41-of-the>.

⁸ The White House, "Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production," March 20, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/immediate-measures-to-increase-american-mineral-production/>.

⁹ The White House, "Unleashing American Energy," January 20, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/unleashing-american-energy/>.

¹⁰ Center for Strategic and International Studies, "Unpacking the U.S.-Australia Critical Minerals Framework Agreement," October 20, 2025, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/unpacking-us-australia-critical-minerals-framework-agreement>.

¹¹ The White House, "United States-Japan Framework For Securing the Supply of Critical Minerals and Rare Earths through Mining and Processing," October 27, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/10/united-states-japan-framework-for-securing-the-supply-of-critical-minerals-and-rare-earths-through-mining-and-processing/>.

¹² U.S. Department of State, "2026 Critical Minerals Ministerial Fact Sheet," February 4, 2026, <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2026/02/2026-critical-minerals-ministerial>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ 43 U.S.C. § 31.

¹⁵ 43 U.S.C. § 31. Director of U.S. Geological Survey, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/43/31>.

formalized through MOUs that describe and govern USGS’s collaboration with foreign governments.¹⁶ On his first day in office, Secretary Burgum issued Secretarial Order 3418, directing DOI to “prioritize efforts to accelerate the ongoing, detailed geologic mapping of the [U.S.], with a focus on locating previously unknown deposits of critical minerals.”¹⁷

H.R. 2969, introduced by Representative Rob Wittman (R-VA-01), would formalize USGS’s process for entering into MOUs with foreign nations and identify key objectives for negotiating and administering such agreements. Specifically, this legislation would direct USGS to assist partner foreign countries (defined broadly) with a range of critical mineral mapping and capacity building activities, secure rights of first refusal for private companies based in the U.S. or allied countries in the further development of mapped critical minerals, leverage government financing programs to promote development, and ensure mapping data is protected from unauthorized access by non-allied nations.

H.R. 2969 would also require USGS to work with both the U.S. Department of State and private sector actors in identifying partner countries and would involve the State Department in the negotiation and implementation of MOUs.

[H.R. 4781 \(Rep. Barr\), “Rare Earth Solutions and Carbon Utilization Enhancement Act of 2025” or the “RESCUE Act of 2025”](#)

The U.S. currently imports 95 percent of its REEs,¹⁸ as a staggering 90 percent of global REE processing occurs in China.¹⁹ REEs (like critical minerals generally, which are also overwhelmingly produced in China²⁰) are as essential for household goods as they are for military and healthcare applications.²¹ Without them, modern life is simply impossible. To promote U.S. economic and national security interests, therefore, REE and critical mineral supply chains must be immediately secured.

One way to secure those supply chains is by recovering and processing the resources already located in the U.S. coal and mine tailings, which often contain critical minerals and REEs that the country desperately needs.²² A 2022 report by the U.S. Department of Energy estimated that U.S. coal reserves could contain up to 17 million tons of REEs.²³ By streamlining the permitting

¹⁶ U.S. Geological Survey, Memorandums of Understanding, <https://www.usgs.gov/memorandums-of-understanding>.

¹⁷ U.S. Department of the Interior, Secretarial Order 3418, February 5, 2025, https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/document_secretarys_orders/so-3418-signed.pdf.

¹⁸ U.S. Government Accountability Office, “Critical Materials: Action Needed to Implement Requirements That Reduce Supply Chain Risks,” September 10, 2024, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-107176>.

¹⁹ Gracelin Baskaran, “China’s New Rare Earth and Magnet Restrictions Threaten U.S. Defense Supply Chains,” Center for Strategic and International Studies, October 9, 2025, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/chinas-new-rare-earth-and-magnet-restrictions-threaten-us-defense-supply-chains>.

²⁰ Kevin Stitt, “A Mineral Strategy for American Security,” The Wall Street Journal, July 16, 2023, <https://www.wsj.com/opinion/a-mineral-strategy-for-american-security-permitting-reform-oklahoma-china-8cb213f0?msockid=2ead81b332816ce3308b97c533426d45>.

²¹ Brandon S. Tracy, “An Overview of Rare Earth Elements and Related Issues for Congress,” Congressional Research Service, November 24, 2020, <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R46618>.

²² U.S. Department of Energy, “Recovery of Rare Earth Elements and Critical Materials from Coal and Coal Byproducts,” May 2022, <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/Report%20to%20Congress%20on%20Recovery%20of%20Rare%20Earth%20Elements%20and%20Critical%20Minerals%20from%20Coal%20and%20Coal%20By-Products.pdf>.

²³ *Id.*

process for the recovery of REEs and critical minerals, Congress can immediately incentivize domestic recovery and production to help secure America’s vulnerable supply chains.

H.R. 4781, sponsored by Representative Andy Barr (R-KY-06), would amend the FAST Act to make critical minerals and REEs recovery from coal, coal waste, acid mine drainage, and mine tailings eligible for the FAST-41 expedited permitting and review process. In so doing, the bill furthers President Trump’s agenda by codifying portions of E.O. 14241, *Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production*²⁴ and E.O. 14261, *Reinvigorating America’s Beautiful Clean Coal Industry and Amending Executive Order 14241*.²⁵

H.R. 5929 (Rep. Barr), “Critical Minerals Supply Chain Resiliency Act”

The Defense Production Act of 1950 authorizes the Secretary of War to take specific steps to “create, maintain, protect, expand, or restore domestic industrial base capabilities essential for the national defense.”²⁶ From raw minerals to manufactured products, the U.S. must act quickly to unleash industrial independence; without rapid progress, the country will permanently fall behind adversarial nations like China. Overly cumbersome and bureaucratic permitting processes are keeping the Secretary of War from strategically leveraging the authority that has already been granted through the Defense Production Act of 1950, needlessly slowing down key reindustrialization efforts.

To meet America’s strategic and industrial needs, the Secretary of War’s efforts under the Defense Production Act of 1950 must be eligible for the FAST-41 streamlined permitting processes. Doing so will help ensure that our country maintains the industrial capabilities essential to national security and economic prosperity.

H.R. 5929, introduced by Representative Andy Barr (R-KY-06), would add the actions authorized under the Defense Production Act of 1950 to the list of covered projects eligible for the FAST-41 expedited permitting process. For example, H.R. 5929 would ensure that the FAST-41 program encompasses Secretary of War-directed feasibility studies for mineral processing projects, by-product and co-product recovery from existing mines and mine waste, as well as initiatives focused on modernization, workforce safety, and environmental sustainability. This bill aligns with President Trump’s agenda by codifying portions of E.O. 14241, *Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production*.²⁷

²⁴ The White House, “Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production,” March 20, 2025,

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/immediate-measures-to-increase-american-mineral-production/>.

²⁵ The White House, “Reinvigorating America’s Beautiful Clean Coal Industry and Amending Executive Order 14241,” April 8, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/reinvigorating-americas-beautiful-clean-coal-industry-and-amending-executive-order-14241/>.

²⁶ 50 U.S.C. § 4533(a)(1).

²⁷ The White House, “Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production,” March 20, 2025,

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/immediate-measures-to-increase-american-mineral-production/>.

H.R. 7126 (Rep. Wittman), “Securing Essential and Critical U.S. Resources and Elements Minerals Act of 2026” or the “SECURE Minerals Act of 2026”

America’s dependence on critical mineral imports plays right into the hands of our adversaries. China has demonstrated its willingness to deny access to critical minerals by implementing mineral export restrictions²⁸ and leveraging its stranglehold over REEs as a bargaining chip in trade negotiations.²⁹ China also strategically dumps excess production onto the global market, causing mineral prices to plummet.³⁰ As a result, U.S. companies and financiers are unable or unwilling to invest in domestic critical mineral supply chains, generating uncertainty across the key sectors of the economy that depend on critical minerals supplies.

To counter this scenario, the Trump administration recently announced Project Vault, an initiative led by the U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM) aimed at creating a new U.S. Strategic Critical Mineral Reserve.³¹ Project Vault will be supported by a \$10 billion EXIM loan and nearly \$2 billion in private-sector investment, to acquire and store critical minerals across the country.³²

H.R. 7126, sponsored by Representative Rob Wittman (R-VA-01), takes a similar approach to Project Vault by providing the federal government with a new set of financial tools to stabilize critical mineral prices and foster predictable markets conducive to investment. Specifically, the bill would provide \$2.5 billion to create a Strategic Resilience Reserve (SRR), tasked primarily with creating a stockpile of minerals to combat critical mineral price fluctuations. The funding would be available to the SRR to use on staffing and acquiring property to create a physical reserve. Additionally, the SRR would be given flexible financial tools to acquire minerals, expanding the federal government’s toolkit for responding to China’s deliberate price manipulation.

H.R. 7458 (Rep. Hageman), “Domestic Opportunities for Resource Exploration Act” or the “Domestic ORE Act”

BLM classifies notice-level operations as exploration activities on federal land that cause a surface disturbance that does not exceed five acres.³³ 15 days prior to conducting such operations, developers must submit a notice to BLM that includes: a description and schedule of activities, estimated costs, a reclamation plan, and a financial assurance guaranteeing that the

²⁸ Reuters, “China bans export of critical minerals to US as trade tensions escalate,” December 3, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/china-bans-exports-gallium-germanium-antimony-us-2024-12-03/>.

²⁹ Center for Strategic and International Studies, “China’s New Rare Earth and Magnet Restrictions Threaten U.S. Defense Supply Chains,” October 9, 2025, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/chinas-new-rare-earth-and-magnet-restrictions-threaten-us-defense-supply-chains>.

³⁰ U.S. House of Representatives, The Select Committee on the CCP, “Bipartisan Investigation Reveals How the CCP Manipulates the Critical Minerals Market,” <https://chinaselectcommittee.house.gov/media/press-releases/bipartisan-investigation-reveals-how-the-ccp-manipulates-the-critical-minerals-market>.

³¹ The Export-Import Bank of the United States, “Week in Review: Project Vault and the U.S. Strategic Critical Mineral Reserve,” February 6, 2026, <https://www.exim.gov/news/week-review-project-vault-and-strategic-critical-mineral-reserve>.

³² *Id.*

³³ 43 CFR § 3809.21, “When do I have to submit a notice?,” <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-43/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-C/part-3800/subpart-3809/subject-group-ECFR756fd0a32677e93/section-3809.21>.

exploration site will be fully reclaimed.³⁴ BLM is then required to review notices for completeness and request additional information from operators within 15 days of submission.³⁵

BLM's current five-acre threshold for notice-level operations places an unnecessary regulatory burden on developers conducting similar low-impact exploration activities across larger areas of public land. For example, expanding even basic sample-drilling campaigns over an area greater than five acres requires developers to submit a full exploration plan of operations to BLM, triggering a review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).³⁶ This process can delay early-stage exploration projects for years, impeding work needed to discover deposits that can be developed into full-scale mines.³⁷ In contrast to BLM, there are currently no acreage thresholds for notice-level activities on lands managed by the USFS.³⁸ This lack of clarity produces similar delays for operators by triggering arbitrary, expensive and time-consuming NEPA reviews for a wide range of low-impact exploration activities.³⁹

H.R. 7458, introduced by Representative Harriet Hageman (R-WY-At Large), would correct these issues by expanding the threshold for notice-level exploration activities on BLM lands to 25 acres, while establishing the same criteria on USFS-managed lands. According to a recent study published by the Breakthrough Institute, this expansion would reduce the number of exploration campaigns that require a plan of operations and subsequent NEPA review by roughly 25 percent on BLM lands alone.⁴⁰ This will spur increased mineral exploration on federal lands, and also reduce agency workload.

H.R. 7458 also codifies BLM's requirements for operators prior to conducting notice-level activities on both BLM and USFS lands, including providing notice 15 days prior to conducting activities and submitting financial assurances to cover the full costs of reclamation. Lastly, and consistent with current BLM regulations, the bill requires the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to review notices for completeness within 15 days of receipt. The commonsense reforms made by H.R. 7458 will allow exploration to be conducted more efficiently on federal lands, improving project economics, shortening discovery timelines, and ultimately creating a more robust domestic mineral supply chain.

³⁴ 43 CFR § 3809.301, "Where do I file my notice and what information must I include in it?," [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-43/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-C/part-3800/subpart-3809#p-3809.31\(b\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-43/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-C/part-3800/subpart-3809#p-3809.31(b)).

³⁵ 43 CFR § 3809.311, "What action does BLM take when it receives my notice?," <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-43/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-C/part-3800/subpart-3809/subject-group-ECFRc284811df80a2fc/section-3809.311>.

³⁶ The Breakthrough Institute, "Reducing Critical Mineral Project Lead Times: Thinking Outside of the Permitting Box," January 15, 2026, https://thebreakthrough.imgix.net/pdfs/ReducingCritMineralLeadTimes_Whitepaper_v2.pdf.

³⁷ Society for Mining, Metallurgy, & Exploration, "Overview Of Federal Permitting Timelines For Locatable Mineral Projects On Public Lands," <https://www.smenet.org/what-we-do/technical-briefings/white-paper-on-exploration>.

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ The Breakthrough Institute, "Reducing Critical Mineral Project Lead Times: Thinking Outside of the Permitting Box," January 15, 2026, https://thebreakthrough.imgix.net/pdfs/ReducingCritMineralLeadTimes_Whitepaper_v2.pdf.

IV. MAJOR PROVISIONS & ANALYSIS

H.R. 1501 (Rep. Shreve), “Protecting Domestic Mining Act of 2025”

Section 2. Definition of Covered Project.

- Codifies mining as a Covered Project under the *FAST Act*.

Section 3. Prohibition Against Finalizing, Implementing, or Enforcing Proposed Rule Related to Scope of Mining Under FAST Act.

- Prohibits FPISC from finalizing, implementing, administering, or enforcing the Biden administration’s proposed rule aimed at narrowing which mining projects could be considered covered projects.

H.R. 2969 (Rep. Wittman), “Finding Opportunities for Resource Exploration Act” or the “Finding ORE Act”

Section 3. Memorandum of Understanding with Respect to the Mapping of Critical Minerals and Rare Earth Elements.

- Authorizes the Secretary, acting through USGS, to enter into MOUs with partner foreign countries relating to mapping of critical minerals and REEs.
- Identifies four objectives for the Secretary when negotiating MOUs with partner foreign countries:
 - Commit USGS to assist partner countries with critical mineral mapping activities.
 - Ensure partner countries offer a right of first refusal to private companies based in the U.S. or allied countries in the development of mapped critical minerals.
 - Facilitate investment in the development of critical minerals in partner countries, including by leveraging financing from the U.S. Development Finance Corporation and EXIM.
 - Ensure that mapping data created through partnership with USGS is not disclosed to governmental or private entities in non-allied countries
- Directs the Secretary to engage in cooperative activities when implementing MOUs with partner foreign countries.
- Clarifies that cooperative activities include collaboration on data analysis, training and capacity building, education in mineral resource management and international standards, and facilitating cooperation with institutions of higher education.
- Requires the Secretary to notify and submit a report to Congress at least 30 days prior to entering into an MOU with a partner foreign country.
- Directs the Secretary to collaborate with the private sector in identifying countries to prioritize for MOU development.
- Requires the Secretary to collaborate with the Secretary of State in prioritizing partner foreign countries for MOUs, as well as negotiating and implementing MOUs.

H.R. 4781 (Rep. Barr), “Rare Earth Solutions and Carbon Utilization Enhancement Act of 2025” or the “RESCUE Act of 2025”

Section 2. Permit Process for Projects Relating to Extraction, Recovery, or Processing of Certain Materials.

- Amends the FAST Act’s definition of “Covered Project” to include projects that extract, recover, or process REEs, Locatable Minerals within the jurisdiction of the General Mining Law of 1872, microfine carbon or carbon from coal, or minerals on federally acquired land.
- Clarifies that eligible projects must involve recovery from acid mine drainage, mine tailings, coal, coal waste, or pre and post combustion coal byproducts.

H.R. 5929 (Rep. Barr), “Critical Minerals Supply Chain Resiliency Act”

Section 2. Treatment of Actions Under Presidential Determination 2022–11 for Federal Permitting Improvement Purposes.

- Amends the FAST Act, ensuring that actions taken by the Secretary of War authorized by Section 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 are treated as Covered Projects and included on the FAST-41 Permitting Dashboard.
- Allows resulting project sponsors to request that their covered project not be included on the Permitting Dashboard.

H.R. 7126 (Rep. Wittman), “Securing Essential and Critical U.S. Resources and Elements Minerals Act of 2026” or the “SECURE Minerals Act of 2026”

Section 101. Establishment.

- Establishes the SRR as a government corporation, specifies the SRR’s purposes, and authorizes \$2.5 billion to be appropriated to the SRR.

Section 102. Board of Governors.

- Establishes the SRR’s Board of Governors, which consists of seven Senate-confirmed voting members serving staggered, 14-year terms. The powers and duties of the Board include developing bylaws, operating procedures, and policies; authority to enter into contracts and transactions, and oversee operations of the SRR.

Section 203: Data Collection.

- Establishes the Division of Data Collection within the SRR that will consult with the heads of relevant federal agencies, using existing data as much as possible, to collect and maintain:
 - a proprietary dataset to sufficiently analyze global critical mineral markets;
 - sufficient datasets that include domestic, global, and partner country market dynamics to inform critical mineral costs throughout the value chain, recycling rates for critical minerals, and supply/demand forecasts of critical minerals for domestic and partner countries;
 - transaction and geographic price data for critical minerals in the global market; and

- estimates of critical mineral transactions involving the People’s Republic of China.
- Stipulates that the collected data should inform the SRR’s market risk and vulnerability assessments and help determine which minerals receive financing and acquisition support.
- Directs the Division to determine what mechanisms are required for loan terms, contracts, and agreements, so that the SRR can collect the necessary data.

Section 204: Critical Mineral and Material Market Risk and Vulnerability Assessment.

- Establishes the Division of Risk and Vulnerability Evaluation within the SRR to develop and use databases, models, and methodologies to:
 - evaluate threats and risks across sectors, including defense, energy, agriculture, transportation, health, and emerging technology;
 - track price movements, supply chain vulnerabilities, production capacity, and consumption patterns; and
 - assess how potential critical mineral supply disruptions can pose threats to infrastructure, essential services, national and economic security.

Section 206: Financing and Acquisition of Critical Minerals or Materials.

- Authorizes the SRR to use financing and acquisition tools to achieve its legislative purposes.
- Directs the SRR to leverage existing federal investments as much as possible, and consider certain factors such as foreign labor standards, diversification, market conditions, and the economic viability of producers.
- Allows the SRR to use the following financing and acquisition tools:
 - loans to authorized intermediaries that prioritize domestic critical mineral supply chains and suppliers;
 - acquisitions through solicitation and direct contracting with private counterparties, by physically cleared financial instruments (future contracts) or options contracts directly or through intermediaries like financial exchanges;
 - non-recourse lending to projects that are secured by a portion of the expected project production; and
 - other transaction agreements, including financing and acquisition transactions like contracts for differences, advance or milestone payments, advanced market commitments, or equity investments (which should be used as a last resort).
- Authorizes the SRR to approve contributions from partner countries that wish to invest in the SRR, provides for an International Advisory Council of Partners, exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act, to consult with the SRR on investments.

Section 207: Sale of Critical Minerals or Materials.

- Authorizes the SRR to sell critical minerals that are stored in the reserve and provides the necessary conditions and guidelines to carry out a sale.

Section 401: Risk and Audit Committees.

- Requires the SRR to establish risk and audit committees. The risk committee is responsible for formulating risk management policies including enterprise risk management and the SRR’s risk profile. The audit committee is responsible for the financial integrity of the SRR’s including financial reporting, accounting, regulatory requirements, and internal auditing.

Section 402: Annual Audit and Comptroller Review.

- Requires an independent audit of the SRR’s financial statements annually and a biennial review of the SRR’s operations by the U.S. Comptroller General.

Section 403: Reporting and Transparency.

- Requires a report to Congress describing the SRR’s operations, including the Board’s recommendations, a summary of the transactions and loans made to authorized intermediaries, and information regarding vulnerabilities, risks, and audits.
- Directs the SRR to produce a publicly available database of all financial transactions, with an exception for national security considerations.

[H.R. 7458 \(Rep. Hageman\), “Domestic Opportunities for Resource Exploration Act” or the “Domestic ORE Act”](#)

Section 2. Notice for Mineral Exploration Activities with Limited Surface Disturbance

- Requires operators conducting exploration activities on up to 25 acres of public lands to notify the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture at least 15 days before commencing such activities.
- Outlines information required in notices for exploration activities and requires the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture to review the notices within 15 days of receipt.
- Stipulates that operators must provide adequate financial assurance to conduct notice-level exploration activities.

V. COST

A formal cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office is not yet available for the bills.

VI. ADMINISTRATION POSITION

The Trump administration’s position on any of the bills is unknown at this time.

VII. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

[H.R. 1501](#)

[H.R. 4781](#)

[H.R. 7126](#)