

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to thank you for your leadership in signing Executive Order 13953 and declaring a National Emergency to address our nation's reliance on critical minerals from foreign adversaries. We strongly support your earlier efforts to recognize the importance of critical minerals, including Executive Order 13817 and your July 22, 2019 Presidential Determinations regarding rare earth elements, and believe your latest action is an imperative next step. Now more than ever, it is vital that we secure our critical mineral supply chain and end our dependence on China for the minerals necessary to maintain our economic and military strength in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

As you know, despite an abundant supply of mineral reserves, the United States is 100 percent reliant on imports for 17 vital mineral resources and more than 50 percent dependent on imports for another 29 mineral commodities. Alarming, China is the world's leading producer of 23 of the 35 minerals the Departments of Interior and Defense list as critical, and controls 90 percent of global rare earth element production. We have seen throughout the COVID-19 pandemic how a reliance on Chinese goods hinders our ability to respond here at home. We cannot allow China to cut off our access to these vital resources used in everything from computers and cell phones to electricity generation and defense systems.

By expanding the domestic mining industry, alleviating unnecessary permitting delays, and reducing our nation's dependence on China for critical minerals, Executive Order 13953 will protect both our economic and national security. We hope that under your leadership, the Department of Interior will quickly utilize all of the authorities conferred in Executive Order 13953 and provide immediate access to the funding with which to exercise them. We must work to quickly address the critical mineral national emergency and ensure reliable domestic access to the critical and strategic minerals that will usher in a second Industrial Revolution.

Again, we applaud Executive Order 13953, "*Addressing the Threat to the Domestic Supply Chain from Reliance on Critical Minerals from Foreign Adversaries and Supporting the Domestic Mining and Processing Industries.*" Through this Executive Order, you are once again taking decisive action to put Americans back to work and restore economic growth. We stand ready to support you in this and other efforts to shore up our nation's critical mineral supply chain.

Sincerely,



Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

CC: Mr. Mark Meadows, White House Chief of Staff  
The Honorable David Bernhardt, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior  
The Honorable Mark Esper, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense  
The Honorable John Ratcliffe, Director of National Intelligence

/s/  
Kevin McCarthy  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Steve Scalise  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Neal Dunn  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Steve King  
Member of Congress

/s/  
John Joyce, M.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Greg Gianforte  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress

/s/  
W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress

/s/  
David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jody Hice  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ted S. Yoho  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Scott Perry  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Fred Keller  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Denver Riggleman  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Dr. James R. Baird  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Paul A. Gosar, DDS  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Andy Barr  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Daniel P. Meuser  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress

/s/  
H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress

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Don Young  
Member of Congress

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Paul Cook  
Member of Congress

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Steve Watkins  
Member of Congress

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Pete Olson  
Member of Congress

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Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress

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Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Will Hurd  
Member of Congress