**Rich Nolan**
**President & CEO**

November 17, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jefferies:

On behalf of the National Mining Association (NMA), I write in support of the Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026 (H.R. 9640). Earth MRI and mapping activities at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are critical to ensuring our nation has the geologic, geophysical, topographic related data to identify our nation's energy and mineral resources.

Mineral exploration is an incredibly costly part of the mining process. Concentrations of vital minerals that are valuable enough to mine are rare. Only approximately 1 out of 1,000 deposits have the mineral concentrations needed for an economic mine. As such, the important work being done by the USGS through the Earth MRI program supports the derisking of exploration investment while helping the federal government, states, and industry stakeholders to identify and characterize domestic mineral deposits through the collection of high-resolution data.

Through these mapping efforts, the USGS is continuing to identify valuable mineralization in areas previously thought to have low mineral potential. Industry investors are then able to strengthen our mineral supply chains by using this data to make more informed decisions about where and how to pursue mineral development opportunities across the U.S.

In the current age of increasing energy and mineral demand, the Earth MRI program is critical to helping our nation responsibly secure the resources needed for economic and national security priorities while also allowing the U.S. to compete on a global scale. For these reasons, the NMA strongly supports the Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026 and urges its passage.

Sincerely,

Rich Nolan

101 Constitution Ave. NW / Suite 500 East / Washington, D.C. 20001 / Phone: 202. 463. 2600

**The Sanborn Map Company, Inc.**
305 S. Rockrimmon Blvd, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
www.sanborn.com

**THE SANBORN MAP COMPANY, INC.**

November 13, 2026

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support for H.R. 9640 — Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026**

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

On behalf of The Sanborn Map Company, Inc. (Sanborn), I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 9640, the Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026, and to urge the House to pass it when it comes to the floor next week.

Sanborn is a U.S.-owned geospatial and geophysical mapping company with a long history of supporting federal, state, and local government mapping programs. Our capabilities include airborne geophysical surveys, high-resolution aerial imagery, LiDAR, hydrographic mapping, and advanced geospatial data processing. We recognize the importance of Earth MRI to identifying domestic critical mineral resources, strengthening American energy security, and reducing dependence on foreign sources of strategically important minerals.

We strongly support extending Earth MRI's authorization through fiscal year 2031. The $84 million authorized for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 will sustain the nationwide geologic and geophysical mapping that is essential to identifying domestic mineral resources, supporting private-sector exploration, and providing the scientific information necessary for responsible resource development. We also support the bill's recognition of modern sensing technologies, including airborne gravity gradiometry and advanced geochemical methods, and its addition of the USGS 3D Hydrography Program as an authorized data source, which will increase the value of existing federal mapping investments.

We particularly commend the Committee for including language directing the USGS to give preference, to the extent practicable, to United States-owned and United States-controlled entities when awarding Earth MRI contracts and support the requirement that prime contractors and subcontractors disclose their ownership, which will strengthen accountability in the procurement process. To date, over half of the Earth MRI mapping contracts awarded have been executed by foreign-owned mapping firms using United States taxpayer funds. This provision

reinforces the domestic economic and national security objectives underlying the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Federal investments intended to strengthen America's critical mineral supply chains should also support American businesses, American workers, and the domestic technical and industrial capabilities necessary to sustain these programs. U.S. companies have invested substantial private capital in specialized aircraft, advanced geophysical instruments, LiDAR systems, data processing infrastructure, and highly skilled personnel, and those investments create high-quality American jobs.

We commend Representatives Rob Wittman and Debbie Dingell for their leadership on this legislation. H.R. 9640 represents an important bipartisan opportunity to strengthen America's critical mineral capabilities while ensuring that federal mapping investments support domestic businesses and skilled American workers. Sanborn respectfully urges the House to pass H.R. 9640.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
John Copple
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**John Copple**
Chief Executive Officer
The Sanborn Map Company, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Rob Wittman, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Debbie Dingell, U.S. House of Representatives

American Critical Minerals Association

Representative Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C

Representative Steve Scalise
House Majority Leader
H329, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
H204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Bruce Westerman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Jared Huffman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Scalise, Leader Jeffries, Chairman Westerman, and Ranking Member Huffman,

The American Critical Minerals Association (ACMA) writes today in support of reauthorizing the bipartisan, bicameral "Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (MRI) Act" (H.R. 9640). H.R. 9640 re-authorizes Earth MRI for five years, helping to resolve a critical gap in national mineral mapping efforts.

The mission of ACMA and its members is to support the growth of the United States' critical mineral supply chain. ACMA is an industry association that welcomes members from across the supply chain, including raw material producers, processors, recyclers, suppliers, manufacturers, and end users, as well as academic institutions and other stakeholders. Our organization serves as a unified voice to advance U.S.-based critical mineral processing and recycling capacity for the benefit of multiple sectors, including but not limited to, the defense, transportation, aerospace, energy, and manufacturing sectors.

Originally established in 2019, Earth MRI is a partnership between the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and State Geological Surveys that uses modern technology to map U.S. surface and subsurface geology. While further analysis is required, USGS estimates that the United States hosts 90 percent of the critical minerals most vulnerable to supply chain disruptions. Since

its implementation, Earth MRI has identified over 400 deposits of untapped critical mineral production potential.[1]

In addition to reauthorizing the program, H.R. 9640 will build on the program's success by adding more federal data sets and incorporating testing of emerging technologies to produce more accurate maps. Improved geological data can expand our understanding of U.S. mineral resources and provide states, policymakers, and industry with more accurate information to identify resource potential, guide exploration and investment decisions, reduce unnecessary drilling and exploration risks, and responsibly develop domestic critical mineral resources.

In closing, strengthening America's critical mineral supply chain starts with knowing where our resources are and understanding their potential. Reauthorizing Earth MRI will provide the geological data needed to unlock domestic mineral resources, reduce reliance on foreign adversaries, and support U.S. manufacturing and national security. ACMA strongly urges Members to support H.R. 9640 and reauthorize this critical program for another five years.

Sincerely,

Sarah Venuto

Sarah Venuto
Executive Director
American Critical Minerals Association

[1] https://www.usgs.gov/news/national-news-release/usgs-updates-us-critical-mineral-deposits




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critical-minerals.us

November 16, 2026

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026 (H.R. 9640)**

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

On behalf of Woolpert, Inc., I write to express our strong support for H.R. 9640, the Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026, introduced by Representative Rob Wittman (VA-01), and to thank the Committee for advancing this bipartisan legislation. The bill would reauthorize and strengthen the United States Geological Survey's Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI), a nationally significant program that advances America's understanding of critical mineral resources and the geologic systems that support economic growth, energy security, and technological innovation.

As a leading geospatial, architecture, engineering, and environmental services firm, Woolpert has firsthand experience with the value of advanced geospatial data in supporting informed decision-making across both the public and private sectors, including our lidar, elevation, and 3D Hydrography Program data acquisition work for the USGS. The Earth MRI program represents one of the federal government's most important investments in modern geologic mapping, geophysical characterization, and subsurface resource assessment.

We are particularly encouraged by the bill's recognition of modern sensing technologies, including advanced geophysical data acquisition approaches, digital geochemistry and other advanced geochemical characterization methods, real-time or near real-time data acquisition systems, and data-driven analytical methods. We also support the bill's expansion of Earth MRI to better characterize geothermal, natural hydrogen, and other subsurface resource systems alongside critical minerals.

The proposed authorization of $84 million for fiscal years 2027 through 2031, an average of approximately $16.8 million per year, would provide important continuity for large-scale mapping and characterization efforts. Predictable, multi-year funding would help U.S. firms maintain and invest in the aircraft, sensors, processing capabilities, and skilled personnel needed to support this work, strengthening domestic technical capacity and the nation's ability to collect, process, and interpret critical geologic and geospatial data.

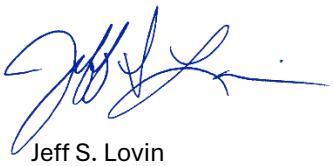
The legislation's integration of the USGS 3D Hydrography Program reflects the growing importance of interoperable geospatial information. Integrating surface-water information with elevation, geologic, geochemical, and geophysical data would give decision-makers a more complete and useful understanding of the nation's surface and subsurface resources.

Woolpert Inc.
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At a time when domestic supply chains, critical mineral availability, energy independence, and national security are national priorities, Earth MRI has become an essential tool for improving our understanding of America's geologic resources and reducing uncertainty for both public and private investment.

For these reasons, Woolpert strongly supports H.R. 9640. We thank the Committee for its leadership and respectfully urge prompt passage by the full House.

Sincerely,



Jeff S. Lovin
Senior Vice President
Woolpert, Inc.

Association of American State Geologists

**Executive Committee**
**2026 - 2027**

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**AASG WEBSITE**
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**November 12, 2026**

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: AASG Support for H.R. 9640 - Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026**

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the Association of American State Geologists (AASG), which represents the directors of the nation's State Geological Surveys, I write to express our strong support for **H.R. 9640 - Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026**, as the House prepares to consider the legislation.

Since its establishment in 2019, the U.S. Geological Survey's Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) has demonstrated the value of a coordinated federal-state approach to understanding our nation's mineral resources. Through geological mapping, airborne geophysical surveys, geochemical investigations, and assessments of mine waste, Earth MRI is providing the foundational scientific information needed to identify domestic critical mineral resources, reduce exploration uncertainty, and strengthen American supply chains.

Earth MRI's value extends well beyond mineral exploration. The program produces publicly available, precompetitive data that supports private-sector investment, informs land and resource management decisions, and provides a scientific foundation for future discoveries. Its success depends on the longstanding partnership between USGS and State Geological Surveys, which combine national capabilities with the local expertise needed to interpret and apply these data.

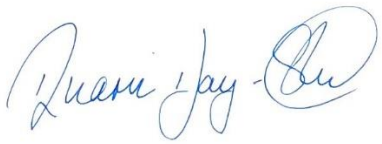
H.R. 9640 would extend this important program through 2031 while recognizing advances in geophysical sensing and analytical technologies and expanding opportunities to characterize geothermal, natural hydrogen, and other subsurface resources. AASG supports these improvements and emphasizes the importance of maintaining core geological mapping and strong cooperative agreements with State Geological Surveys as the program evolves.

As noted in AASG submitted testimony before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources in July, much of the nation still lacks modern geological and

geophysical information. Continued investment in Earth MRI is essential to completing this work and realizing the full value of the federal and state investments already made.

**AASG strongly supports House passage of H.R. 9640** and appreciates the bipartisan leadership of Representatives Wittman and Dingell in advancing this legislation. Reauthorizing Earth MRI will help sustain a successful federal-state partnership and provide the reliable geological information our nation needs for years to come.

Sincerely,



**Dr. Ruarri J. Day-Stirrat**
President
Association of American State Geologists

American Exploration & Mining Association
EST. 1895

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November 13, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: AEMA Support for H.R. 9640, the Earth MRI Reauthorization Act**

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

The American Exploration & Mining Association (AEMA) wishes to express our support for H.R. 9640, (Wittman), the Earth MRI Reauthorization Act. This bipartisan piece of legislation will allow the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to continue its important work for another five years and build upon an already impressive list of accomplishments.

For decades, geologic mapping in the United States has been fragmented, incomplete, and in many cases, outdated. Successive administrations understood this problem and took steps to address it, but much work remains.

In 2017, Executive Order 13817, "A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals," made it the federal government's policy to identify new sources of critical minerals, directed the Secretary of the Interior to develop a critical minerals list, and directed the Secretary of Commerce to lead a coordinated federal government effort to develop a plan to "improve the topographic, geologic, and geophysical mapping of the United States" and make the data electronically accessible, among other tasks. Recognizing the value of these efforts, Congress established and authorized the Earth MRI program for five years when it passed – and President Biden signed – the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in 2021.

Earth MRI strengthens the Nation's domestic mining industry and helps us level the playing field against the predatory practices of aggressive foreign countries by providing exploration companies more and better data about our mineral resources.

- Old, paper maps and collections of state geologic surveys, universities and tribes are being digitized, integrated and analyzed;
- Previously unmapped areas are being mapped for the first time;

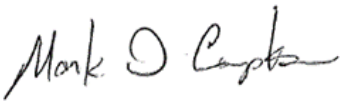
- Technologies are being applied to log features like fault structures, water resources and old waste storage facilities.

While we are pleased that USGS has more than tripled the area in the United States that is now mapped, we also want to point out the importance of reducing the impact of mining operations on the environment. Earth MRI helps in this regard as well, by creating a national inventory of tailings facilities and mine waste features. Old sites that contain economically viable amounts of desirable minerals could be candidates for reprocessing, thus removing or reducing the footprint and potentially improving the environmental management of the site – a net benefit for all.

Whether the United States seeks mineral dominance or to simply reduce our dependence on foreign adversaries for our mineral supply chains, maximizing responsible and timely production of the full range of mineral commodities is key to meeting the growing demand for advanced technologies across sectors, including electric vehicles, defense, healthcare, consumer electronics, energy production, and many other crucial applications.

For these and many other reasons, we urge the House to approve H.R. 9640 in order to continue responsible domestic mineral development and the strengthening of U.S. supply chains.

Sincerely,



Mark Compton
Executive Director

ESSENTIAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION

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November 16, 2026

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

I am writing on behalf of the Essential Minerals Association (EMA) to express EMA's strong support of H.R. 9640, the *Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026*. We thank you for your bipartisan leadership in extending one of the most cost-effective tools the federal government has for strengthening America's mineral supply chains.

EMA is the representative voice of approximately 100 companies that extract, process, and support a vital and beneficial group of metal/nonmetal minerals that are the essential ingredients for a strong national defense and economy as well as many of the products used in everyday life. Our members' minerals are essential building blocks for the agriculture, defense, energy, healthcare, infrastructure, manufacturing, and technology sectors, to name just a few.

Enhancing domestic supply chains of these minerals is of strategic importance for our country and for American families who use the products derived from minerals. Strong domestic supply chains enhance affordability of the goods and services Americans depend on every day. But every one of those supply chains begins with knowing what minerals lie beneath our feet. Much of the United States has never been mapped with modern geologic, geophysical, and geochemical methods. Without that baseline of information, exploration is slower, riskier, and more expensive. Too often, the result is a delay in or lack of domestic mineral development, and therefore continued reliance on foreign sources for minerals we could produce responsibly in the United States.

The U.S. Geological Survey's Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) closes that gap. Congress authorized the program in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and set a clear goal: an initial comprehensive national map of surface and subsurface data by 2031. The data it produces is public, which lowers the cost of early-stage exploration for companies of every size. Earth MRI data also helps state geological surveys, landowners, and communities make informed decisions. In addition, the data supports work well beyond minerals, including water resource planning, natural hazard assessment, and energy infrastructure siting.

H.R. 9640 keeps that work on track by:

- Reauthorizing Earth MRI for fiscal years 2027 through 2031, giving the program the continuity it needs to finish the national map on schedule
- Authorizing $16.8 million a year, consistent with the President's FY 2027 budget request and the House FY 2027 Interior appropriations bill
- Modernizing the program by adding advanced sensing technologies, including advanced geophysical data acquisition and digital geochemistry
- Integrating data from USGS's 3D Hydrography Program, so the resulting maps are more complete and useful

Letting this program lapse would leave the national mapping effort unfinished and strand years of progress. Given the efforts by adversarial nations like China to dominate the minerals sectors, we must support development of American mineral resources as rapidly as possible, and the information provided by Earth MRI is a key step towards that goal. Once we know what minerals our nation possesses and where they are, we can begin to responsibly mine and process those minerals domestically rather than rely on foreign adversaries for those essential resources.

EMA urges swift House passage of H.R. 9640, and we look forward to seeing the reauthorization signed into law. Please let us know how EMA and our members can help advance this legislation.

Sincerely,



Matthew Dermody
Associate Vice President, Government Affairs
Essential Minerals Association

Jataware

November 12, 2026

The Honorable Robert J. Wittman
The Honorable Debbie Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**Support for H.R. 9640, the Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026**

Dear Representative Wittman and Representative Dingell:

I write in my personal capacity in strong support of H.R. 9640, the Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026, as reported by the Committee on Natural Resources. I am a licensed Professional Geologist and Principal Scientist at Jataware, where I work at the intersection of artificial intelligence and critical minerals. Before that, I spent more than a decade at the U.S. Geological Survey working on mineral resource assessment and economic geology, including work connected to the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI).

On June 25, 2026, I testified before the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources at its hearing, "Beneath the Surface: Earth MRI and America's Resource Potential." My central message was that Earth MRI is doing what Congress asked of it, but the work is unfinished. H.R. 9640 gives the program the authority it needs to complete its objectives.

Congress directed the USGS to complete a comprehensive national surface and subsurface mapping and data-integration effort by November 15, 2031, but authorized funding only through fiscal year 2026. That window closes this year. Without reauthorization, a mandate Congress set would stop roughly halfway, just as the program reaches its highest momentum in decades. Since the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act accelerated Earth MRI in 2021, the USGS has partnered with 40 states and territories and roughly tripled the area of the country covered by high-quality airborne geophysical surveys. Modern high-resolution coverage still reaches only a fraction of the nation.

Earth MRI produces precompetitive data: foundational geoscience information that any company, university, or individual can use at no cost. That public availability is what makes the program a catalyst for private investment rather than a substitute for it. Reliable baseline data shortens exploration timelines, lowers the risk of each decision in resource development, and helps keep exploration capital in the United States rather than in better-characterized jurisdictions abroad. Comparable programs show strong returns; Geoscience Australia's precompetitive program was estimated to return about 500 to 1 on public investment (Jowitt and Fisher, 2025).

The program also anchors a broader national capability. Federal critical-minerals research at agencies such as Departments of Energy and DARPA depend on Earth MRI data. Earth MRI funding supports state geological surveys in preserving and digitizing legacy records, which turns an underused archive into training data for modern AI tools. Sustained funding enables state surveys to hire and train the next generation of geologists and geophysicists before senior expertise vanishes.
H.R. 9640 addresses the issues raised at the hearing in four practical ways:

- **Reauthorization through FY2031.** Section 2(c) authorizes funding for fiscal years 2027 through 2031, aligning the program's funding with the 2031 completion date Congress already set.
- **Modern sensing and data-driven methods.** Section 2(a) makes clear that Earth MRI may use advanced geophysical techniques such as airborne gravity gradiometry, digital and advanced geochemistry, near real-time acquisition, and data-driven analytical methods. AI models that fuse magnetic, radiometric, electromagnetic, and hyperspectral data are only as good as their inputs, so this flexibility matters. It also preserves the program's emphasis on broad regional coverage with mature, cost-effective methods, while allowing more specialized techniques where an area warrants them. The added reference to geothermal and geologic hydrogen systems recognizes that the same data serve energy applications as well as minerals.
- **Data integration.** Section 2(b) adds the USGS 3D Hydrography Program to the data sources Earth MRI integrates, improving the surface framework that geologic and geophysical interpretation relies on.
- **Contracting transparency.** Section 2(d) gives preference, to the extent practicable, to U.S.-owned and U.S.-controlled entities while still weighing specialized expertise, and requires ownership disclosure for prime contractors and subcontractors. This is a sensible safeguard for a program tied to national security and critical-mineral supply chains.

Earth MRI underpins nearly every goal Congress has set for critical mineral security and responsible resource development. I respectfully urge the House to pass H.R. 9640 so the program can complete the national effort Congress has already mandated. As Clarence King, the first director of the USGS, wrote in 1880: "We have only begun; we have the great work still before us."

Thank you for your leadership on this legislation. I would be glad to serve as a resource to you or your staff.

Sincerely,



Graham W. Lederer, Ph.D., P.G.
Principal Scientist, Jataware