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1334 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Stauber, Ranking Member Ocasio-Cortez, Chairman Westerman, and Ranking Member Grijalva:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this subcommittee and testify regarding the important role that critical minerals, elements, substances, and materials play in the medical technology sector. My testimony today is in response to the subcommittee's interest in H.R. 6395, Recognizing the Importance of Critical Minerals in Healthcare Act. We appreciate the leadership Representatives Curtis, DeGette, and Fitzpatrick have shown in introducing this legislation and cosponsoring it.

GE HealthCare is a leading global medical technology, pharmaceutical diagnostics, and digital solutions innovator, dedicated to providing integrated solutions, services, and data analytics to make hospitals more efficient, clinicians more effective, and therapies more precise, and patients healthier and happier. With more than 51,000 colleagues globally, we are headquartered in Chicago, Illinois and have manufacturing facilities located in South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Utah, Texas, Arizona, New York, and across the globe. GE HealthCare has around a 4 million install base serving patients in every state, and last year our products and technology served more than 1 billion patients around the world. GE HealthCare is advancing personalized, connected, and compassionate care, while simplifying the patient's journey across the care pathway. Our Imaging, Ultrasound, Patient Care Solutions, and Pharmaceutical Diagnostics businesses help improve patient care from diagnosis, to therapy, to monitoring.

GE HealthCare supports the goal of including healthcare sector input when considering the designation of critical minerals, elements, substances, and materials. H.R. 6395, Recognizing the Importance of Critical Minerals in Healthcare Act, accomplishes this by including the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services in consultations by the Secretary of the Interior regarding the designations.

Taking into consideration which natural resources are key to medical technology and patient care will ensure that the country is able to prioritize products which impact millions of patients in the United States and around the world each day. There are many examples of the important role that more than 50 critical minerals, elements, substances, and materials play in the portfolio of products which GE HealthCare manufacturers to help diagnose and treat patients. Let me expand on two examples that help to share the important need for interagency communication.

Helium is a chemical element vital to the healthcare system. Helium is used in Magnetic Resonance Imaging, or MRI, which is a diagnostic test that assists medical professionals by creating very detailed images of structures, including tissues, the skeletal system, and organs inside the human body. There are over 30 million MR scans performed each year in the United States in support of critical healthcare

needs such as stroke and brain trauma, breast cancer screening, and tumors, among many other usages.

MRI systems create these images using large magnets and radio waves. Liquid helium is used to cool the superconducting magnets that are an integral part of the majority of MRs in use today including those manufactured by GE HealthCare in Florence, South Carolina. Helium is extracted from natural gas and produced as a byproduct of natural gas processing from helium rich waste systems. The MR industry as a whole accounts for 22% of the utilization of the world's supply of helium. While the supply of helium is stable today, the availability of supply over the past decade has been inconsistent, and we have established a multi-supplier strategy to ensure security of supply of this critical liquid gas.

This Committee has dealt with helium issues in the past, when over a decade ago it passed legislation that required the privatization of the US Strategic Helium Reserve. The Bureau of Land Management at the U.S. Department of the Interior accepted a bid to purchase the Federal Helium System, and it is important to note that the impact of the sale has yet to be fully seen.

Iodine, a chemical element and one of the heaviest stable halogens, plays an important role in patient care as contrast media in X-ray and computed tomography (CT) scans to enhance images for adult and pediatric patients. Healthcare professionals rely on these scans to have clear and accurate images to diagnose disease and injuries and plan treatment. Annual X-rays across the world comprise 27% of the global usage of iodine across industries. GE HealthCare, as a global leader in X-ray and CT technology, is one of the largest consumer of Iodine in the world where it is used in two GE HealthCare medical contrast products, Omnipaque and Visipaque.

These are two of many examples of the importance of these critical resources for patients. There are a host of other minerals, elements, substances, and materials which are used in medical technology at GE HealthCare including Molybdenum, Terbium, Lutetium, and Germanium.

Accordingly, having the Secretary of the Interior consult with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services during the creation of this list is appropriate and will bring a vital perspective to the discussion.

GE HealthCare supports the legislation, H.R. 6395, Recognizing the Importance of Critical Minerals in Healthcare Act, and commends Representatives Curtis, DeGette, and Fitzpatrick for this effort.