



The Securing American Mineral Supply Chains Act

Even before Russia invaded Ukraine and jeopardized global economies, it was clear the U.S. is far too dependent on our adversaries for the minerals and resources needed to fuel our economy. This is not just an energy and economic challenge; it's a national security crisis. It's time for the U.S. to develop our rich domestic mineral resources, strengthen our supply chains, and expand our power and influence across the world.

Hardrock mining projects— vital to supplying the U.S. and our allies with minerals like copper, cobalt, and lithium – are repeatedly blocked, caught in endless red tape. These minerals are irreplaceable components in computers, defense systems, advanced energy technologies, and dozens of other applications. To meet skyrocketing demand, we must have efficient and predictable permitting processes, support for our mining workforce, and promote innovation throughout the sector.

Key Legislative Provisions:

- Designates a lead federal agency to coordinate the mine permitting process to **maximize efficiency and minimize delays for mining projects** on federal land.
- **Sets time limits for key steps** in the federal permitting process.
- Prohibits mineral withdrawals on federal lands without a recent mineral assessment or a certification that a proposed withdrawal **would not impede a secure U.S. supply chain.**
- **Prohibits the reversal of existing leases, permits, or claims** for critical mineral or aggregate development without an act of Congress.
- **Strengthens the mining workforce, promotes new research** into the production of critical minerals and **increases scientific capacity** to carry out mineral resource assessments.
- Requires USGS to report to Congress on the **involvement of Russia and China in mining and processing activities** in countries from which the U.S. imports minerals, including an evaluation of strategic or security concerns.
- **Strengthens national and energy security** by authorizing the EPA to grant waivers, as appropriate, for certain environmental requirements **to critical energy resource facilities.**
- **Unlocks permitting delays for and promotes commercialization of new critical energy resource facilities and operations** by facilitating timely and flexible environmental permitting and public health related reviews.
- Requires the Secretary of Energy to regularly assess and **take actions to strengthen the critical energy resource supply chain.**
- Directs the Secretary of Energy to carry out **a strategic uranium reserve program** to rebuild the U.S. nuclear fuel supply chain and reduce dependency on Russia.