

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY & WATER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AMENDMENTS TO H.C.M. 2003
(Reference to printed memorial)

1 Page 1, line 1, after "America" insert ", the Director of the United States
2 Geological Survey, the United States Secretary of the Interior and the
3 Congress of the United States of America"

4 Strike everything after the representing clause and insert:

5 "Whereas, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS)
6 "Mineral Commodity Summaries 2023," the estimated value of United States
7 metal mine production in 2022 was \$34.7 billion; and

8 Whereas, in 2022, copper comprised the highest total share of that
9 value, about 33%, with the United States (U.S.) producing an estimated 1.3
10 million tons of copper valued at approximately \$11.45 billion; and

11 Whereas, globally, the U.S. produced about 5.9% of all copper in 2022
12 and was the fifth largest producer, behind Chile, Peru, Congo and China;
13 and

14 Whereas, Arizona ranked number one in the country for total value of
15 nonfuel mineral production in the U.S., with copper representing the
16 principal nonfuel mineral commodity produced in 2022; and

17 Whereas, according to Standard & Poor's "The Future of Copper," the
18 demand for copper to supply the rapid deployment of new energy
19 technologies, such as electric vehicles, batteries and solar photovoltaics,
20 while continuing to serve all other sectors that are dependent on copper
21 for economic growth, is expected to double to 50 million metric tons by
22 2035 and reach more than 53 million metric tons by 2050; and

23 Whereas, the expected and rapid rise in demand presents an immediate
24 need for the mining and exploration industries to increase global supplies

1 of copper and copper reserves, which U.S.-based and U.S.-aligned companies
2 are willing and able to provide; and

3 Whereas, funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS &
4 Science Act, and Inflation Reduction Act will invest more than \$135 billion
5 on projects related to critical minerals sourcing and processing for the
6 development of advanced manufacturing and America's energy future; and

7 Whereas, in October 2022, the White House launched the American
8 Battery Materials Initiative to align and leverage federal resources to
9 grow a more resilient and domestic end-to-end supply chain for the
10 manufacture of battery energy storage systems and electric vehicles, as
11 well as to support the faster and fairer development and permitting of
12 domestic projects to accelerate increased domestic energy and mineral
13 production; and

14 Whereas, the supply chain issues that the U.S. experienced during the
15 COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how easily projects can be delayed when
16 critical materials are suddenly not available for months; and

17 Whereas, developing domestic supplies of critical minerals and
18 strategic metals ensures a reliable supply chain that is not subject to
19 global disruptions, provides domestically sourced materials for U.S.
20 manufactured products and creates jobs across the entire mining lifecycle
21 for metals that are essential to batteries, electric vehicles and other
22 energy technologies; and

23 Whereas, in addition to significant efforts to develop the processing
24 and manufacturing facilities for energy metals, the USGS developed the
25 Earth Mapping Resources Initiative to study different regions and mineral
26 systems to better understand where critical minerals can be found, identify
27 potential mineralized areas containing critical minerals and which minerals
28 might be at high enough concentrations for extraction, and to provide basic
29 geologic data to the public. This data can be used freely by the mining
30 and exploration industries to seek additional deposits of critical minerals
31 and hopefully pursue development and extraction of such critical resources;
32 and

1 Whereas, in response to Executive Order 13817 of December 20, 2017,
2 "A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical
3 Minerals," the United States Secretary of the Interior, in coordination
4 with the heads of other relevant executive departments or agencies,
5 developed a list of 35 "critical minerals" that were nonfuel mineral or
6 mineral material essential to the economic and national security of the
7 United States, the supply chain of which is vulnerable to disruption, and
8 that serves an essential function in the manufacturing of a product, the
9 absence of which would have significant consequences for our economy or our
10 national security; and

11 Whereas, section 7002 of the Energy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-260)
12 directed the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to, through the Director of the
13 USGS, designate a list of critical minerals and update that list every
14 three years. It also instructed the USGS to conduct domestic resource
15 assessments of critical minerals and make that information publicly
16 available; and

17 Whereas, in 2022, the USGS issued a 2022 final list of critical
18 minerals (87 FR 10381), "2022 Final List of Critical Minerals," which was
19 determined using the most up-to-date scientific methods to evaluate mineral
20 criticality and contains 15 more commodities than the 2018 list of critical
21 minerals, increasing the number of mineral commodities included in the list
22 from 35 to 50; and

23 Whereas, of the 50 mineral commodities identified in the 2022 list of
24 critical minerals, the U.S. was 100% net import reliant for 12, and an
25 additional 31 critical mineral commodities had a net import reliance
26 greater than 50% of apparent consumption; and

27 Whereas, according to the USGS "Methodology and Technical Input for
28 the 2021 Review and Revision of the U.S. Critical Minerals List," the
29 criteria threshold for a commodity's inclusion in the list of critical
30 minerals is a recency-weighted mean supply risk score of at least .40, and
31 commodities that meet or exceed this score are recommended for inclusion on
32 this list; and

1 Whereas, USGS data collection and analysis considers emerging issues
2 in crucial supply chains and, every three years, identifies the nation's
3 current vulnerabilities to potential disruptions; and

4 Whereas, copper has always been critical to our national security,
5 water infrastructure and electrical and energy infrastructure, and recent
6 significant increases in the supply risk, particularly from adversarial
7 countries like China and Russia, have only increased the risk of disruption
8 to global copper supplies and have made its immediate inclusion on the
9 critical mineral list necessary; and

10 Whereas, copper was not included in the 2018 or 2022 critical
11 minerals list; and

12 Whereas, with the release of the draft 2022 list, a new qualitative
13 methodology was created to look more closely at a supply risk score by
14 calculating the economic vulnerability, disruption potential and trade
15 exposure of various minerals; and

16 Whereas, in a 2022 letter to Utah Governor Spencer Cox, USGS
17 Associate Director for Energy and Mineral Resources, Sarah Ryker, stated
18 that "If the criticality status of a mineral commodity were to change
19 significantly in the near term, the USGS would publish information on the
20 changed circumstances without waiting for a 3-year update cycle"; and

21 Whereas, the share of copper consumption that is met by net imports
22 has increased from 31% in 2016 to 49.3% in 2021 and, in the first half of
23 2022, the U.S. reliance on net imports remained at 48 percent; and

24 Whereas, since 2018, the risks to copper from imports have increased
25 dramatically; and

26 Whereas, in 2023, the Copper Development Association issued a report
27 replicating the USGS's methodology for determining mineral criticality and
28 determined that copper's updated supply risk score in 2022 was 0.423, and
29 the four-year weighted average score is now 0.407, both of which are above
30 the USGS's 0.40 threshold for automatic inclusion on the critical minerals
31 list ("Copper Meets Inclusion Criteria for U.S. Geological Survey's
32 Critical Minerals List"); and

1 Whereas, in 2023, a group of six U.S. senators, including Senators
2 Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly from Arizona, wrote a letter to the Honorable
3 Deb Haaland, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, urging her
4 to "revisit and consider" the designation of copper as a critical mineral;
5 and

6 Whereas, given copper's major role in state and national economic
7 development, national security and infrastructure, copper is a critical
8 mineral and should be included on the USGS's list of critical minerals; and

9 Whereas, the recently available data, dramatic rise in the supply
10 risk score, significant change in circumstances and critical status of
11 copper merit immediate attention and require the USGS to publish updated
12 information without having to wait for the conclusion of its next 3-year
13 update cycle; and

14 Whereas, designation of copper on the critical minerals list will
15 significantly benefit and protect the United States as we continue to
16 invest in an emerging energy economy and other copper-intensive
17 applications; and

18 Whereas, by recognizing copper as a "critical mineral," the United
19 States government can more effectively ensure a secure and reliable supply
20 of domestic copper resources in the years to come, achieve mineral
21 independence and promote the development of its strategic commercial and
22 industrial sectors that are dependent on copper supplies.

23 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of

24 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

25 1. That the United States Geological Survey add copper to its list
26 of critical minerals.

27 2. That the United States Department of the Interior and United
28 States Congress support the United States Geological Survey in adding
29 copper to the United States Geological Survey critical minerals list.

1 3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit
2 copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the
3 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
4 House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of
5 the Interior, the Director of the United States Geological Survey and each
6 Member of Congress from the State of Arizona."

7 Amend title to conform

And, as so amended, it do pass

GAIL GRIFFIN
CHAIRMAN

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