

Endorsements and Supporting Documents

...Foreign lobbyists in Washington, D.C. have worked against our many prior attempts to get reasonable legislation passed to provide proper regulatory oversight and certainty to those Americans seeking permits to mine. Some of the largest U.S. mining companies are actually paying billions of dollars to import these defense-critical rare earth elements and minerals from China rather than mining them from U.S. sources. These nefarious political actions and payments are sustaining their own prosperity, while America's own prosperity and national security is being undermined.

Congress can fix this nightmare and I would encourage you to support "Critical Minerals: Breaking China's Grip on America's Mining and Production of Critical Minerals" National Security Amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).¹

—Pricilla Giddings, Idaho House of Representatives, District 7A

China has achieved monopoly control of rare earths and other critical minerals essential to America's military and high-tech industries. Without a reliable domestic supply of these minerals, we cannot maintain our advantage in industry nor on the battlefield. China currently has the ability to bring our military to a standstill by cutting off our supplies of critical minerals. These proposed amendments are a huge step in the right direction.

I urge you to support Critical Minerals: National Security Amendments to the NDAA—"Breaking China's Grip on America's Mining and Production of Critical Minerals." It is a matter of national security.

— Brigadier General John Adams, US Army (Retired)

Since 2002, the key US technology and defense sectors have been steadily 100% reliant on China for all imported rare earth materials. —USGS, 2018 Mineral Commodity Summaries

These amendments would go a long way toward removing the deathgrip that overzealous regulators have had on mineral development in this country. By removing pointless and excessive regulation, such as dueling state and federal permit systems covering the same mining activity, miners are more likely to effectively prospect for and develop mineral deposits needed for national security and prosperity.

—James Buchal, Mining Attorney

Although President Trump has taken great strides to address this national security threat—through executive orders and trade investigations—it's time for Congress and the administration to take a whole-of-market approach to critical minerals and to enact policies that will spur innovation at every step in the minerals supply chain. This should start with mine permitting reform and investment in promising materials technologies and processes.²

—Col. Jeffery A. Green (US Air Force Reserve), Founder, JA Green & Company

Miners have faced excessive and unwarranted regulatory burdens at the local, state and federal level; therefore, I urge you to support the proposed amendments to the NDAA submitted by Public Lands for the People.³

—John Dorval, Port Jervis, New York

Without a reasonable permit system and access to known and potential mineral deposits, there cannot be regulatory certainty. Without regulatory certainty, there will be no development of critical minerals in the United States and no critical minerals supply chain. And without a critical minerals supply chain in America, our national security is continually in jeopardy. I urge members of Congress to pass these proposed amendments to the NDAA before a conflict arises that provokes China to take advantage of our failed policies.

—Scott Harn, Pres/CEO, ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal

America's relative fall from defense technological leadership mirrors its decline in rare earth capabilities. This is an appalling story of a long-running U.S. economic and national security failure that has put the nation behind China on many next-generation weapon systems while stifling the economy.

Solutions to overcoming China's stranglehold over the economy and national defense are circulating in the Senate and exist within the administration. It's past time to stop the rancor inside the Beltway and get back to governing.⁴—James Kennedy, President, ThREE Consulting

The proposed amendments will provide much needed relief to the regulatory burdens we now suffer from. Miners have been an important part of the economy and could continue to assist in helping the economy by providing jobs and the resources necessary to keep it growing. History has shown that dependence on foreign mineral supplies has put the US at a disadvantage in time of conflict.⁵

—Doug Hammond, Challis, Idaho

I am writing to you as a constituent and an active miner. I'm writing to urge you to support the amendments to the NDAA submitted by Public Lands for the People. The over-regulation of the mining industry in general and the impact on miners, in particular, has hurt the exploration and development of minerals critical to our national defense.⁶

—David E. Strutt, Lake Arrowhead, California

To be strong, the United States must have a strong mineral industry, at both the small-scale and the large scale; and not be dependent on foreign imports of the minerals we have laying at our feet.

We believe the Proposed Amendments to the NDAA will be a giant step in the right direction to not only save and revitalize the Mineral Industry, but also helps secure our Freedom and Security from foreign interests.⁸

—Tom Kitchar, President, Waldo Mining District, Cave Junction, Oregon

The Idaho County Republican Central Committee is greatly concerned about the suppression of property rights and subsequent reduced access to minerals and other natural resources on all property within Idaho County.

The current BLM mineral extraction permitting process is so overwhelmingly burdensome, time-consuming and expensive to navigate that property and mine owners are virtually held hostage to ideological groups who seek to shut down human activity on not only their own land, but everyone else's as well. This otherwise natural extraction process has become so warped and intolerable that it seems futile to even apply for permits.

Congress needs to fix this nightmare and begin now by supporting "Critical Minerals: Breaking China's Grip On America's Mining And Production Of Critical Minerals." National Security Amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).⁷

—Marilyn Giddings, Chairman, Idaho County Republican Central Committee



House of Representatives State of Idaho

March 7, 2019

Senator Martha McSally
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

To the Honorable Senator McSally,

As a fellow, former Hawg driver, I appreciate the fighter mentality you have bestowed upon Washington, D.C.!

I currently serve as an Idaho legislator representing Idaho County, Clearwater County, Shoshone County and a portion of Bonner County. I am greatly concerned about the suppression of property rights and subsequent reduced access to minerals and other natural resources within my District. These few counties consume a great portion of Idaho's legal description, which as a state, is 64% federally managed.

The current BLM mineral extraction permitting process for both large and small mining endeavors is so overwhelmingly burdensome, time-consuming and expensive to navigate that property and mine owners are virtually held hostage to ideological groups who seek to shut down human activity on not only their own land, but everyone else's as well. This otherwise natural extraction process has become so warped and intolerable that it seems futile to even apply for permits. At the same time environmental non-governmental organizations use every opportunity to file frivolous "equal access to justice" lawsuits against government agencies and use the settlement incomes as their means to finance future lawsuits.

As you can see from the USGS map, a very large portion of Idaho is in the middle of a great cache of rare earth elements. These minerals have to come out of the ground and be processed to sustain our economy, provide for needs of industry in America, and to provide for needs of national defense. As it stands currently, we are instead completely dependent on the hoped-for continuing good will of communist countries like China to provide these essential needs to our nation's valuable and essential industrial and military complexes. It makes no sense for our country to rely on imported rare earth elements and other minerals, when Idaho and other places in the U.S. could make a substantial contribution and increase local and national economic viability.



House of Representatives State of Idaho

To make matters worse, foreign import lobbyists in Washington, D.C. have worked against our many prior attempts to get reasonable legislation passed to provide proper regulatory oversight and certainty to those Americans seeking permits to mine. Some of the largest U.S. mining companies are actually paying billions of dollars to import these defense-critical rare earth elements and minerals from China rather than mining them from U.S. sources. These nefarious political actions and payments are sustaining their own prosperity, while America's own prosperity and national security is being undermined.

Congress can fix this nightmare and I would encourage you to support "Critical Minerals: Breaking China's Grip on America's Mining And Production Of Critical Minerals" National Security Amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. Keep up the fight!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Priscilla 'ALTOLD' Giddings".

Priscilla "Altoid" Giddings
Representative, District 7A

Select references to demonstrate China's dominance in U.S. Critical Minerals:

<https://business.financialpost.com/commodities/mining/barrick-forges-closer-ties-with-chinese-partner-in-bid-to-revive-south-american-mine>

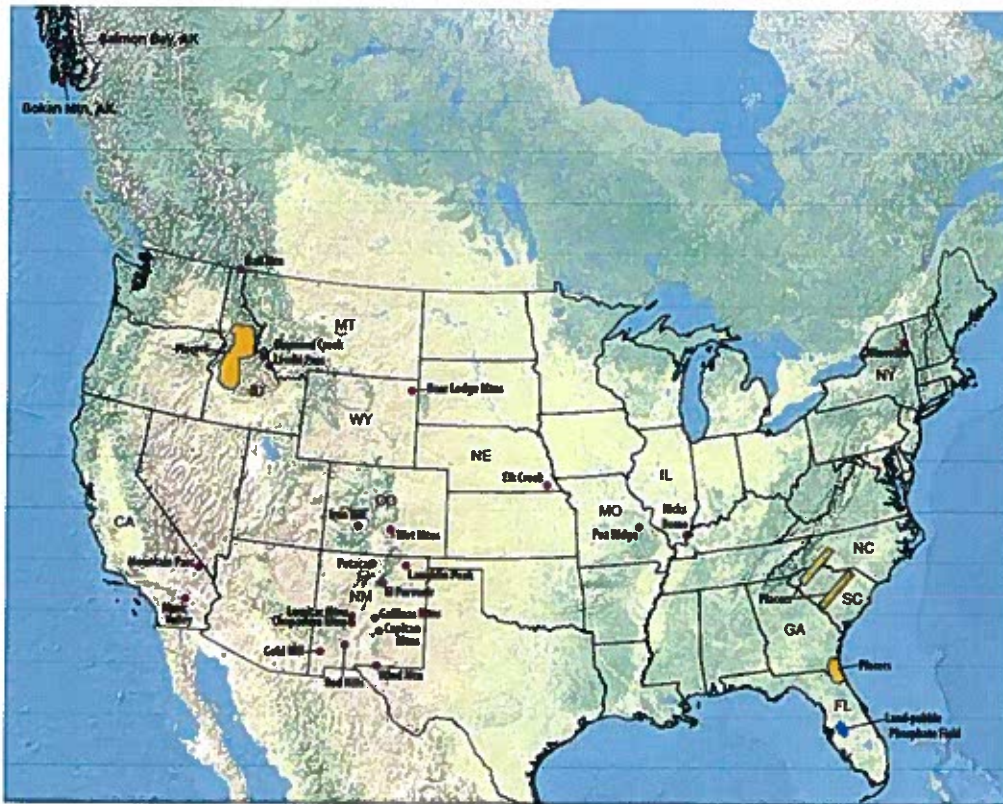
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/chinas-largest-gold-miner-looks-to-partner-with-barrick-newmont/article19213109/>

<https://business.financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/barrick-gold-in-talks-with-partners-in-china-and-saudi-arabia-on-copper-assets>

<https://www.ecofinagency.com/mining/1809-38972-barrick-gold-seeks-chinese-partners-for-its-operations-in-tanzania>

<https://business.financialpost.com/commodities/mining/barrick-gold-corp-sells-50-stake-in-papua-new-guinea-mine-to-china-in-bid-to-forge-closer-ties>

Map Source: The Principal Rare Earth Elements Deposits of the United States—A Summary of Domestic Deposits and a Global Perspective. USGS 2010. <https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2010/5220/>



America's critical minerals problem has gone from bad to worse

By: Jeffery Green May 2, 2018



In a picture taken on September 5, 2010 a man driving a front loader shifts soil containing rare earth minerals to be loaded at a port in Lianyungang, east China's Jiangsu province, for export (STR/AFP/Getty Images)

It is no secret that the United States has a critical minerals problem. As the Pentagon's top acquisition official Ellen Lord [said recently](#), "We have an amazing amount of [dependency on China](#)." Lord called the findings of a forthcoming report on the defense industrial base "quite alarming," and noted that China is America's "sole source for rare earth minerals."

According to the United States Geological Survey, the United States [relies on Chinese imports](#) for at least 20 minerals and has little or no capacity to mine, refine, and process its own minerals from start to finish. As a recent executive order on critical minerals makes clear, this "[strategic vulnerability](#)" poses a significant national security risk.

Although President Trump has taken great strides to address this national security threat—through executive orders and trade investigations—it’s time for Congress and the administration to take a whole-of-market approach to critical minerals and to enact policies that will spur innovation at every step in the minerals supply chain. This should start with mine permitting reform and investment in promising materials technologies and processes.

Critical minerals are the building blocks for military equipment. From minerals that are ubiquitous in the supply chain, such as copper and steel, to those that are very specialized—like rare earth elements and beryllium—America’s technological superiority hinges on maintaining reliable access to key materials. Without access to such minerals, our precision-guided missiles will not hit their targets, our aircraft and submarines will sit unfinished in depots, and our war-fighters will be left without the equipment they need to complete their missions.

Unfortunately, America’s critical minerals problem has gone from bad to worse. The nation’s only domestic rare earth producer was [forced into bankruptcy](#) in 2015 after China suddenly restricted exports and subsequently flooded the market with rare earth elements. Adding insult to injury, the mine was then [sold last summer for \\$20.5 million to MP Mine Operations LLC](#), a Chinese-backed consortium that includes Shenghe Resources Holding Co. Now, according to [MINE Magazine](#), this same mine is exporting critical minerals to a processing plant in China—because the United States cannot process or refine these materials at commercial scale. Without a dramatic change in minerals policies, the United States will not be able to minimize the economic damage that will come when China decides to leverage its minerals monopolies against us.

The first step to a whole-of-market approach to spur innovation in minerals production is removing regulatory hurdles that dissuade would-be investors. Most notably, the United States must accelerate its [mine permitting process](#). The current seven to 10 year timeline is simply untenable. Australia and Canada adhere to similarly stringent environmental guidelines, yet maintain permitting processes that average just two years. The United States’ mine permitting process should not take five times as long. This easily fixed regulatory problem will go a long way toward attracting new entrants into the minerals supply chain.

The Pentagon must also focus on existing Department of Defense programs designed to support the U.S. defense industrial base. Each branch of service has a

ManTech program intended to improve the productivity and responsiveness of the industrial base and to enable manufacturing technologies. In the president's fiscal 2019 budget request, the Army, Navy, and Air Force are only requesting approximately \$60 million each for ManTech. Furthermore, the Pentagon only requested \$38 million for Defense Production Act (DPA) purchases—a defense-wide program focused on expanding and restoring domestic production capacity. This is down from the \$63 million requested for DPA in FY2018. With a \$700 billion defense budget, dedicating just 0.025 percent of the budget to the next generation of manufacturing technologies is nowhere near enough to catch up to China and shore up domestic capabilities.

Congress should not only make funding ManTech and DPA projects a priority, but should also ensure that these funds will fill vulnerabilities in the defense industrial base. Building resiliency and operational capacity throughout the supply chain requires investing in more than just the finished product to include the many tools, technologies, and processes that get us there. With a calculated and strategic focus on filling these gaps in the supply chain, American companies can rise to the task.

Lastly, the administration must continue to fight against unfair trade practices that have bankrupted American mining companies and left us dependent on China for minerals essential to the defense industrial base. The United States must make clear it will not tolerate these practices, and will take a strong stance against continued, aggressive trade actions.

Jeffery A. Green is president and founder of J.A. Green & Company, a bipartisan government relations firm based in Washington DC. Mr. Green served as a missile combat crew commander in the U.S. Air Force and continues to serve as a colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve.

Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Representative Maloney:

As you are probably aware, minerals play a vital role in everyday life in all of humanity. In every aspect of our lives, we depend on minerals from electrical wiring in our homes to computers and cell phones, from transportation to agriculture. We depend on mining. Miners across the United States are a very important part of our economy, providing jobs and the resources necessary for society and for our national security.

Miners have faced excessive and unwarranted regulatory burdens at the local, state and federal level; therefore, I urge you to support the proposed amendments to the NDAA submitted by Public Lands for the People. The proposed amendments will provide miners with much-needed relief.

Thank you.

John Dorval
278 Neversink Drive
Port Jervis NY 12771

Honorable Senator Jim Risch
Honorable Senator Mike Crapo

I urge you to support the proposed amendments to the NDAA submitted by Public Lands for the People. Small mines and miners were an integral part of the settling and development of the Western US. It was through their efforts that the US prospered in the early part of the 1900's. Increasing rules and regulations by local, state and federal agencies have made it difficult for us to survive. If we are allowed to operate in a normal manner, we again can help America prosper.

The proposed amendments will provide much needed relief to the regulatory burdens we now suffer from. Miners have been an important part of the economy and could continue to assist in helping the economy by providing jobs and the resources necessary to keep it growing. History has shown that dependence on foreign mineral supplies has put the US at a disadvantage in time of conflict.

Please assist the President in putting America First for a change, known for our economic activity and not our handouts.

Doug Hammond
Challis, Idaho

China Solidifies Dominance in Rare Earth Processing (UPDATED)

3/21/2019

By James Kennedy



Photo: iStock

America's relative fall from defense technological leadership mirrors its decline in rare earth capabilities.

This is an appalling story of a long-running U.S. economic and national security failure that has put the nation behind China on many next-generation weapon systems while stifling the economy.

Meanwhile, China's advances are largely built on its unparalleled commitment to leading the world in rare earth resource production, refining, material science, metallurgy, intellectual property, research and development, and commercial and defense applications. Rare earths are 17 elements on the periodic table that are now critical components in most modern technologies and weapon systems.

The U.S. rare earth supply chain was first compromised in 1980. A Nuclear Regulatory Commission and International Atomic Energy Agency change in regulations — “Part 40: Domestic Licensing of Source Material” — inadvertently ushered in the transfer of all aspects of U.S. rare earth industry to China.

Prior to that, heavy rare earths came from thorium-bearing byproducts of commodities such as iron ore, titanium, zircon or rock phosphate. Companies that mined these minerals could extract the rare earth byproducts and make a little extra profit. Once anything containing thorium was considered a potential source of nuclear fuel and highly regulated, that ended. Due to the costs and liabilities, these mining companies diverted these rare earth resources into their mine tailings as waste and buried them.

This had a profound impact on rare earth production in all NRC/IAEA compliant countries. China is an IAEA observer, but not a signatory to its agreements.

Today, the disparity between China and the United States continues in part because the Pentagon, government agencies, and the finance and mining industries measure the extraction of rare earths at the mining and oxide production level. Hundreds of rare earth mining projects outside of China have been initiated, giving the erroneous impression that Western rare earth dependence on China may be declining. However, most ultimately fail.

Out of more than 400 rare earth startups publicly listed in 2012, less than five reached production. Of those, only two reached significant volumes. Of those two, one is bankrupt and resurrected with Chinese financing and the other lost its operating permit for a short period.

During this time, China has taken significant equity and debt positions in many of these failed or faltering projects and will control them if they begin production.

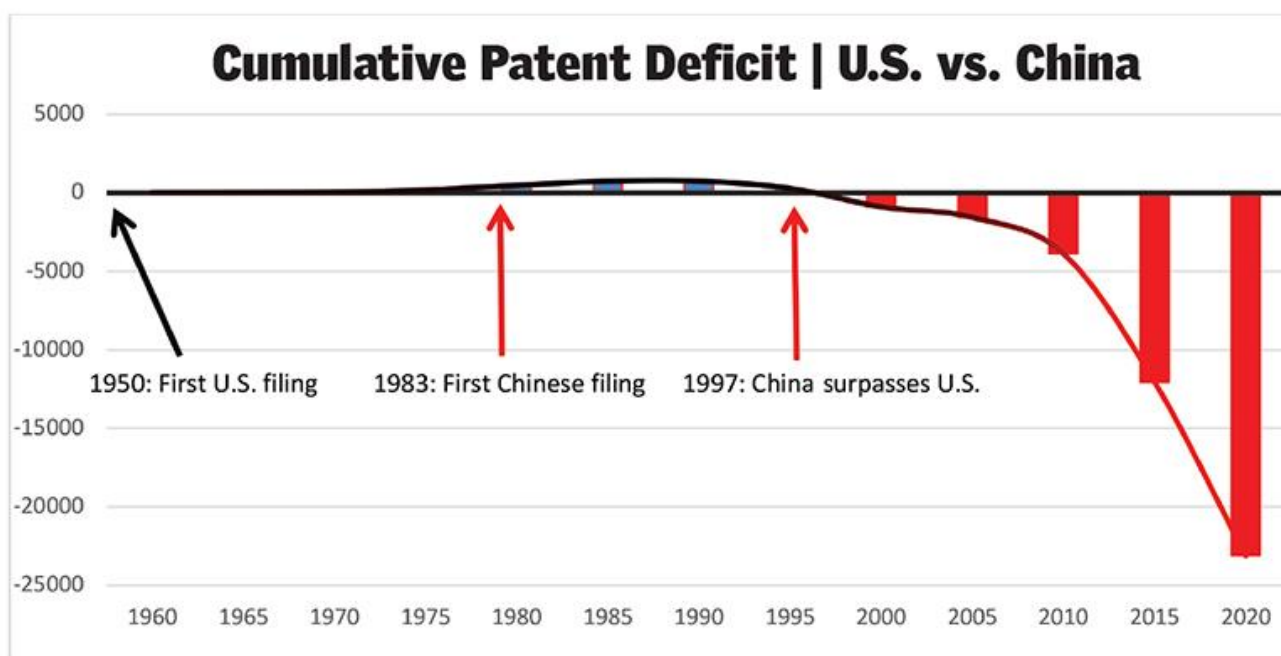
Also, reporting solely on mined rare earths or purified oxides distorts government policy decisions because these materials have no significant technology or defense application until they are refined into metals. Only China has the capacity to do that. In fact, every non-Chinese rare earth mine ships its concentrates, or high-value oxides, to China for processing into rare earth metals, alloys, magnets and other high-value materials.

Preoccupation with rare earth mining instead of the entire rare earth supply chain undermines national and economic security because all defense and technology applications begin with base rare earth metals or other post-oxide materials, not freshly unearthed ore or oxides. China has a global lock on access to rare earth metals, alloys, magnets and most other post-oxide materials.

Meanwhile, a February 2016 Government Accountability Office report, “Rare Earth Materials: Developing a Comprehensive Approach Could Help DoD Better Manage National Security Risks in the Supply Chain,” estimated it could take the United States 15 years to rebuild a domestic rare earth supply chain.

Few if any U.S. policymakers understand these subtleties. Most would be stunned to learn that China could shut down nearly every automobile, computer, smartphone and aircraft assembly line outside of China if they chose to embargo these materials. The same applies to all rare-earth dependent U.S. and NATO weapon systems. These supply chains can be cut. Western military procurement thus is under Chinese control.

Despite this, government reports and assessments have not made these determinations because they accept statistics on rare earth mining and oxide production as a proxy for metals, alloys, magnets, garnets and other post-oxide rare earth materials. There is no contingency in case of a crisis.



As of August 2018 China has accumulated 23,000 more rare earth patent filings than the U.S.

SOURCE: THREE CONSULTING

Most of these named materials are not stockpiled by the Defense Logistics Agency. The U.S. government sold off its entire strategic reserve of rare earths between 1994 and 1998. The agency’s strategic reserve now holds only small amounts of rare earth oxides and dysprosium metal. None are in a form that can be directly utilized by our defense industry. The GAO reported that these materials would need to pass through a Chinese supply chain in order to be utilized.

All rare earth metals, alloys and magnets used by U.S. defense contractors and technology firms can be traced back to China: directly or indirectly through Japanese sourcing or via U.S. alloy and magnet fabricators.

According to a July 2014 Defense Department Inspector General report, “Procedures to Ensure Sufficient Rare Earth Elements for the Defense Industrial Base Need Improvement,” the Pentagon is incapable of properly monitoring rare earth inputs at the component and subcontractor level. Worse yet, it was clear from the report that no one in the Pentagon differentiates between rare earth oxides — with no defense applications — and the post-oxides materials needed for the defense systems — and none bother to ask where these materials come from.

Why? Because the Pentagon and others continue to evaluate U.S. national security supply risk on the basis of global rare earth oxide production. Risks to the downstream manufacturing supply chain are simply ignored.

After 10 years of raising the alarm on this issue with members of Congress, the Defense Department and two administrations, too few understand the risks we are facing.

U.S. policymakers believe that technology leadership is the country’s greatest strength, both economically and for national security. But this is no longer true as it relates to rare earths. Therefore, ThREE Consulting commissioned a worldwide rare earth patent filings survey. Patent filings are a reasonable proxy of potential next-generation weapon systems and other technology that could be in China’s pipeline.

The data were derived from an exhaustive international rare earth patent search by country of origin. The search dates were unbounded: from the first filed patent to the last filings of August 2018. The data set includes over 80,000 patents. Search terms were rare earth(s), lanthanide(s), lanthanum, cerium, praseodymium, neodymium, promethium, samarium, europium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, scandium and yttrium.

China’s first international rare earth patent filing was in 1983, and just 14 years later, China surpassed the United States and every other nation in total patents filed as shown in the chart. As of August 2018, China has accumulated 23,000 more rare earth patent filings than the United States.

Here are some other findings: China has filed more rare earth patents than the rest of the world combined every year since 2011. By early 2021, China will have accumulated more rare earth patents than the rest of the world combined. Chinese companies can use patent-trolling and patent-ring-fencing legal strategies to undermine or nullify existing non-Chinese

patents. China's rate of filings is accelerating relative to the rest of the world — increasing 250 percent from 2011 to 2018.

At no time over the last 40 years was China's rare earth production, or its growing number of rare earth patents, listed as an issue of serious concern by the Pentagon in any of its past manufacturing and industrial base policy reports, reports to Congress on China threats, or acquisition reports.

Finally, a recent report ordered by the White House acknowledged the problem. "Assessing and Strengthening the Manufacturing and Defense Industrial Base and Supply Chain Resiliency of the United States," stated that "China represents a significant and growing risk to the supply of materials deemed strategic and critical to U.S. national security."

For the Pentagon and defense contractors the last few decades have been good: ever larger budgets and soaring stock prices. China, however, used this time to set the groundwork to overtake and displace the West. Beijing's commitment to direct and indirect funding of rare earth research and a forced technology-transfer strategy has paid off.

China's advances are quickly altering the global balance of power, and its future will be in its hands. For example, directed energy weapons will alter or control military outcomes in the future, according to military experts. However, every single directed-energy weapon also requires heavy rare earths and highly advanced material science capabilities. China controls U.S. access to these materials. All of this plays into China's current strengths in these fields, suggesting that the nation will eventually lead the world in the development and deployment of direct energy weapons.

This is bad news for Pentagon experts whose central plan for continued U.S. security was based on continued technology leadership. China has boldly crossed this threshold in plain view of the Pentagon's classic three-monkey observation team. And apparently, there is no backup plan.

Solutions to overcoming China's stranglehold over the economy and national defense are circulating in the Senate and exist within the administration. It's past time to stop the rancor inside the Beltway and get back to governing.

James Kennedy is president of ThREE Consulting and works on critical materials, energy and national security policy issues at the federal level. He is the subject of the book "Sellout" by Victoria Bruce.

May 10, 2018

David E. Strutt
P.O. Box 2330
Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352

The Honorable Col. Paul Cook (Ret)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cook,

I am writing to you as a constituent and an active miner. I'm writing to urge you to support the amendments to the NDAA submitted by Public Lands for the People. The amendments would provide regulatory relief regarding access to mining claims, timely review of plans and notices, MSHA exemptions for small miners, re-opening closed or designated lands, and much more.

As a miner, I operate on federal land under the 1872 Mining Act. Over the past several years, my rights outlined in the Mining Act have been eroded by regulations to the point an individual such as myself cannot comply in a reasonable period and at a sensible cost.

The over-regulation of the mining industry in general and the impact on miners, in particular, has hurt the exploration and development of minerals critical to our national defense. Additionally, these burdensome regulations have had a negative financial impact on thousands of independent miners like myself and the entire mining industry.

I believe these amendments will go a very long way to restoring the rights granted to me under the Mining Act and encourage your support.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Strutt



WALDO MINING DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 1574
CAVE JUNCTION, OR 97523
www.waldominingdistrict.org

February 15, 2019

Critical Minerals: National Security Amendments to the NDAA
“Breaking China’s Grip on America’s Mining and Production of
Critical Minerals”

(Submitted by Public Lands for the People and ICMJ’s Prospecting and Mining Journal)

Know All Ye Present;

By a vote by the Board of Trustees for the Waldo Mining District (WMD), the Waldo Mining District hereby fully supports and endorses the Proposed Amendments to the NDAA.

The WMD (Oregon’s first Mining District) was established in 1852, seven years before Oregon became a state; and is located in the heart of S.W. Oregon in an area of unique geological importance containing gold, silver, iron, cobalt, copper, chromium, and many other minerals including possible Rare Earths... most of which have been locked away due to Wilderness designations, Mineral Withdrawals, rampant enforcement of the Endangered Species Act, and overly restrictive and even prohibitive federal and state regulations.

To be strong, the United States must have a strong mineral industry, at both the small-scale and the large scale; and not be dependent on foreign imports of the minerals we have laying at our feet.

We believe the Proposed Amendments to the NDAA will be a giant step in the right direction to not only save and revitalize the Mineral Industry, but also helps secure our Freedom and Security from foreign interests.

On behalf of the Waldo Mining District:

Tom Kitchar – President
Waldo Mining District
P.O. Box 1574
Cave Junction, OR 97523

Senator James Risch
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

March 4, 2019

To the Honorable Senator Risch,

The Idaho County Republican Central Committee is greatly concerned about the suppression of property rights and subsequent reduced access to minerals and other natural resources on all property within Idaho County. Idaho County is the largest county in Idaho, with over 5.43 million acres. Private land ownership accounts for 15.2%, while 83.3% is federally owned and strictly managed.

The current BLM mineral extraction permitting process is so overwhelmingly burdensome, time-consuming and expensive to navigate that property and mine owners are virtually held hostage to ideological groups who seek to shut down human activity on not only their own land, but everyone else's as well. This otherwise natural extraction process has become so warped and intolerable that it seems futile to even apply for permits. At the same time environmental groups use every opportunity to file frivolous "equal access to justice" lawsuits against government agencies using the settlement incomes as their cash cow for future lawsuits.

As you can see from the map on the next page, Idaho County is smack in the middle of rich rare earth deposits. These minerals have to come out of the ground to sustain our economy, provide for needs of industry in America, and to provide for needs of national defense. As it stands currently, we are instead completely dependent on the hoped-for continuing good will of communist countries like China to provide these essential needs to our nation's valuable and essential industrial and military complexes. It makes no sense for our country to rely on imported rare earth elements and other minerals, when Idaho County could make a substantial contribution and increase its economic viability.

To make matters worse, foreign import lobbyists in Washington DC have worked against our many prior attempts to get reasonable legislation passed to provide proper regulatory oversight and certainty to those Americans seeking permits to mine. These nefarious political actions and payments are sustaining their own prosperity, while America's security and prosperity is being undermined.

Congress needs to fix this nightmare and begin now by supporting "Critical Minerals: Breaking China's Grip On America's Mining And Production Of Critical Minerals." National Security Amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

In Liberty and Justice,

Marilyn Giddings
Chairman and Spokesperson for
Idaho County Republican Central Committee
Idaho, USA

