

March 22, 2022

Charles Schumer

Senate Majority Leader

United States Senate

S-221 The Capitol

Washington, DC 20510

Mitch McConnell

Senate Minority Leader

United States Senate

S-230 The Capitol

Washington, DC 20510

Re: Report: *Strengthening America’s Mineral Security*

Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

The situation in Eastern Europe is a stark and unfortunate reminder that our economic and national security interests are fundamentally interconnected with reliable, affordable supplies of energy and mineral resources. With this in mind, ConservAmerica released a new white paper, "[Strengthening America’s Mineral Security: Net Import Dependence, Supply Chain Vulnerability, and the Case for Critical Minerals](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d0c9cc5b4fb470001e12e6d/t/622a1d250cc6526f5950b16e/1646927142692/CA_critical_minerals_wp_04.pdf)." This white paper examines U.S. federal policy as it relates to critical minerals supply and proposes a series of steps the government should take to reverse one of the nation's most persistent and pervasive security and economic challenges.

The data makes clear that America has a deep, persistent, and dangerous reliance on overseas production and processing This is largely a problem of our own making - one that can be addressed by reforming our national policy framework in support of mineral and energy resource development. In the report, ConservAmerica proposes a three-part framework to address the critical minerals supply challenge:

Minerals for Clean Energy. Minerals are more cleanly and safely produced in America than in other countries. The government must develop policy that promotes critical minerals produced and processed domestically, under the highest environmental and safety standards. Companies should consider additional disclosure and certification of their practices. A successful clean energy transition depends on this process.

Resources for Resources. The government should fully fund authorized minerals programs. Tax credits for minerals as well as expedited permitting should also be considered.

Strengthening Supply Chains. The U.S. should accelerate its domestic mapping program, consider a new civilian stockpile for critical minerals, and continue building relationships with mineral-rich allies like Canada and Australia to diversify sources of supply.

A shift in federal policy is essential and long overdue to solving America's deepening dependence on foreign countries, particularly China, for minerals that are essential to our energy, economic, and national security interests.

ConservAmerica will follow this report with additional recommendations on ways to strengthen our energy and mineral self-sufficiency. In the meantime, we hope you find this report useful and please consider us a resource as you weigh policy changes focused on fixing our critical minerals supply chain vulnerabilities.

Sincerely,



Jeff Kupfer

President

Copy: Chair and Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Chair and Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Chair and Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance

Chair and Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Attachment: [*Strengthening America’s Mineral Security: Net Import Dependence, Supply Chain Vulnerability, and the Case for Critical Minerals*](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d0c9cc5b4fb470001e12e6d/t/622a1d250cc6526f5950b16e/1646927142692/CA_critical_minerals_wp_04.pdf)