



National Minerals Policy Strategic and Critical Minerals

Action:

Support Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and 16 bipartisan co-sponsors on the Critical Minerals Policy Act (S. 1600) and help move the issue to conference committee with the *National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013* (H.R. 761).

These bills seek to:

- Revitalize the United States' critical minerals supply chain by directing the USGS to establish a list of minerals critical to the U.S. economy and providing a comprehensive set of policies that will bolster critical mineral production, expand manufacturing, and promote recycling and alternatives - all while maintaining strong environmental protections.
- Address mine permitting delays by requiring more efficient development of domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to the U.S. economy, national security, and manufacturing competitiveness.

Issue Highlights:

America needs reliable, economically-feasible, sources of domestic minerals.

- The U.S. has become increasingly dependent on foreign sources of strategic and critical minerals; this vulnerability has serious national defense and economic consequences.
- According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. is more than 50% import-reliant for 41 critical and strategic minerals (the U.S. is roughly 50% import reliant on crude oil) and 100% import reliant for 17 critical and strategic minerals, despite having the third largest source of mineral wealth in the world.
- Many of our minerals are imported from countries with policies of resource nationalism. Anticompetitive market manipulation has direct consequences on U.S. jobs and manufacturing

Currently the United States lacks a coherent national policy to assure domestic availability of minerals essential for national economic well-being, national security, and global economic competitiveness.

- For national defense and national security requirements
- For the nation's energy infrastructure including pipelines, refining capacity, electrical power generation and transmission, and renewable energy production
- To support domestic manufacturing, agriculture, housing, telecommunications, healthcare, and transportation infrastructure
- For the nation's economic security and balance of trade

WMC supports enacting a National Minerals Policy based on S. 1600 and H.R. 761 that promotes domestic production and creates high-paying jobs in both mining and manufacturing.

USGS Import Reliance Chart – highlighting China’s Impact on US Mineral Economics

- China currently controls 97% of global rare earth production and is cutting back on rare earth exports in favor of internal consumption.

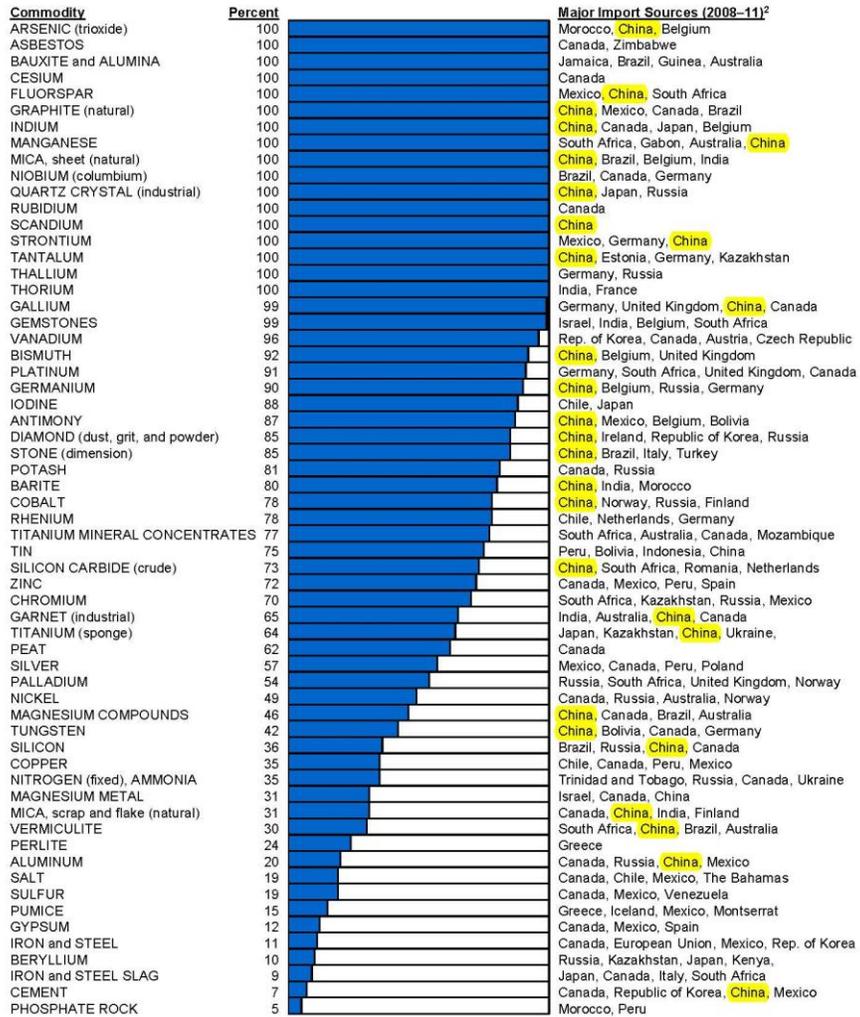
- Critical and strategic minerals extend far beyond rare earth minerals, but resource nationalism is most evident and transparent with China regarding rare earths.

- China is telling manufacturing concerns they have a choice of obtaining the rare earths they need in the global market place at the global commodity price, or relocating their manufacturing facility in China and being guaranteed a supply of rare earths at a discount.

- Instead of settling for Chinese imports and losing manufacturing jobs, the U.S. should expedite the development of our own supplies of rare earths and other critical and strategic minerals. These minerals are the beginning of the manufacturing, national defense, and renewable energy supply chains and are essential to job creation.

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2012 U.S. NET IMPORT RELIANCE¹



¹Not all mineral commodities covered in this publication are listed here. Those not shown include mineral commodities for which the United States is a net exporter (for example, molybdenum) or less than 5% import reliant (for example, talc). For some mineral commodities (for example, rare earths), not enough information is available to calculate the exact percentage of import reliance; for others (for example, lithium), exact percentages may have been rounded to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

²In descending order of import share.