



ADVANCING DOMESTIC MINERAL EXPLORATION

The Domestic ORE Act (H.R. 7458)

THE PURPOSE

Streamlining early-stage exploration is essential to advancing responsible domestic mining and securing America's mineral future.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Establishes a 15-day fast-track process for small-scale mineral exploration on public lands
- Applies to projects disturbing 25 acres or less
- Replaces lengthy permitting timelines with a streamlined notice-based system
- Supports faster access to domestic mineral resources critical to U.S. supply chains
- Requires financial assurance to ensure land reclamation and environmental responsibility

WHY IT MATTERS

Domestic mineral exploration is a critical first step in building secure U.S. supply chains for energy, infrastructure, and national defense.

However, current permitting timelines can delay early-stage exploration for months or years—slowing investment and limiting resource development.

Efficient, predictable exploration processes are essential to unlocking America's mineral potential.

WHAT THE DOMESTIC ORE ACT DOES

- ✓ Creates a 15-Day Review Timeline
 - Agencies must review exploration notices within 15 days
 - Provides certainty and predictability for project planning
- ✓ Establishes a Notice-Based Process
 - Allows operators to proceed by submitting a notice—no lengthy permitting required
 - Applies to projects impacting 25 acres or less
- ✓ Defines Eligible Exploration Activities
 - Includes drilling, trenching, test pits, and access road construction
 - Applies to activities beyond “casual use”
- ✓ Requires Financial Assurance
 - Operators must provide funding for land reclamation
 - Ensures environmental responsibility and site restoration

WHY IT MATTERS FOR MINING

- Accelerates the transition from exploration to development
- Reduces uncertainty and upfront risk for early-stage projects
- Encourages investment in domestic mineral resources
- Strengthens the pipeline of future mining projects

THE OPPORTUNITY

- Increase domestic discovery of critical minerals
- Strengthen U.S. mineral and energy security
- Support rural economies and job creation
- Improve global competitiveness in resource development

Exploration is the foundation of every mine—without it, development cannot begin.

BALANCED APPROACH

The Domestic ORE Act maintains environmental accountability through required financial assurance, while improving efficiency in early-stage exploration. It complements broader reforms such as the SPEED Act of 2025, which address permitting timelines for larger-scale project development.

TALKING POINTS

“Exploration is the first step in building domestic mineral supply chains.”

“A 15-day review timeline provides certainty while maintaining accountability.”

“Small-scale exploration should not face the same delays as large-scale development.”

“Domestic resource development starts with timely access to public lands.”

“This bill strengthens U.S. competitiveness in critical minerals.”