

The National Critical Minerals Council Act

Sen. John Hickenlooper & Sen. Thom Tillis

Problem: The U.S. is highly dependent on foreign countries, particularly adversaries like China, for critical minerals that are essential for industries such as energy, defense, and advanced technology. This reliance poses a significant threat to national security and economic stability, leaving the U.S. vulnerable to supply chain disruptions.

Right now, several federal agencies are working on addressing our critical minerals challenges, but often in silos. It's time to elevate this issue to the highest levels of government and improve coordination of federal strategy, investment, and research.

Solution: The ***National Critical Minerals Council Act*** creates a National Critical Minerals Council, chaired by the Vice President, to develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy aimed at reducing U.S. dependence on foreign adversaries for critical minerals and addressing vulnerabilities in the mineral supply chain. A Chief Minerals Advisor, appointed by the President, will oversee the Council's operations and collaborate with experts from universities, industry, governments, civil society, and tribal nations.

Key duties of the National Critical Minerals Council

- **National Critical Minerals Strategy**
 - Develop a comprehensive critical minerals strategy to reduce reliance on foreign adversaries for critical minerals and reduce single points of failure in the mineral supply chain.
- **Strategic Partnerships and Investments**
 - Coordinate U.S. critical minerals research, development, and funding opportunities across federal agencies.
 - Work with allied nations and private entities to promote the U.S. as the preferred partner for critical mineral projects.
- **Monitoring Foreign Investments**
 - Track foreign investments, particularly those from the People's Republic of China, in global critical mineral projects.
- **Mineral-specific strategies**
 - Prioritize five critical minerals and identify the top challenges and necessary interventions associated with securing stable supply chains for those minerals.

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