

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

*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.* —James Kennedy, President, ThREE Consulting

*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



## 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!

*Priscilla "ALTOID" 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/pmnl/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/>



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](http://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.

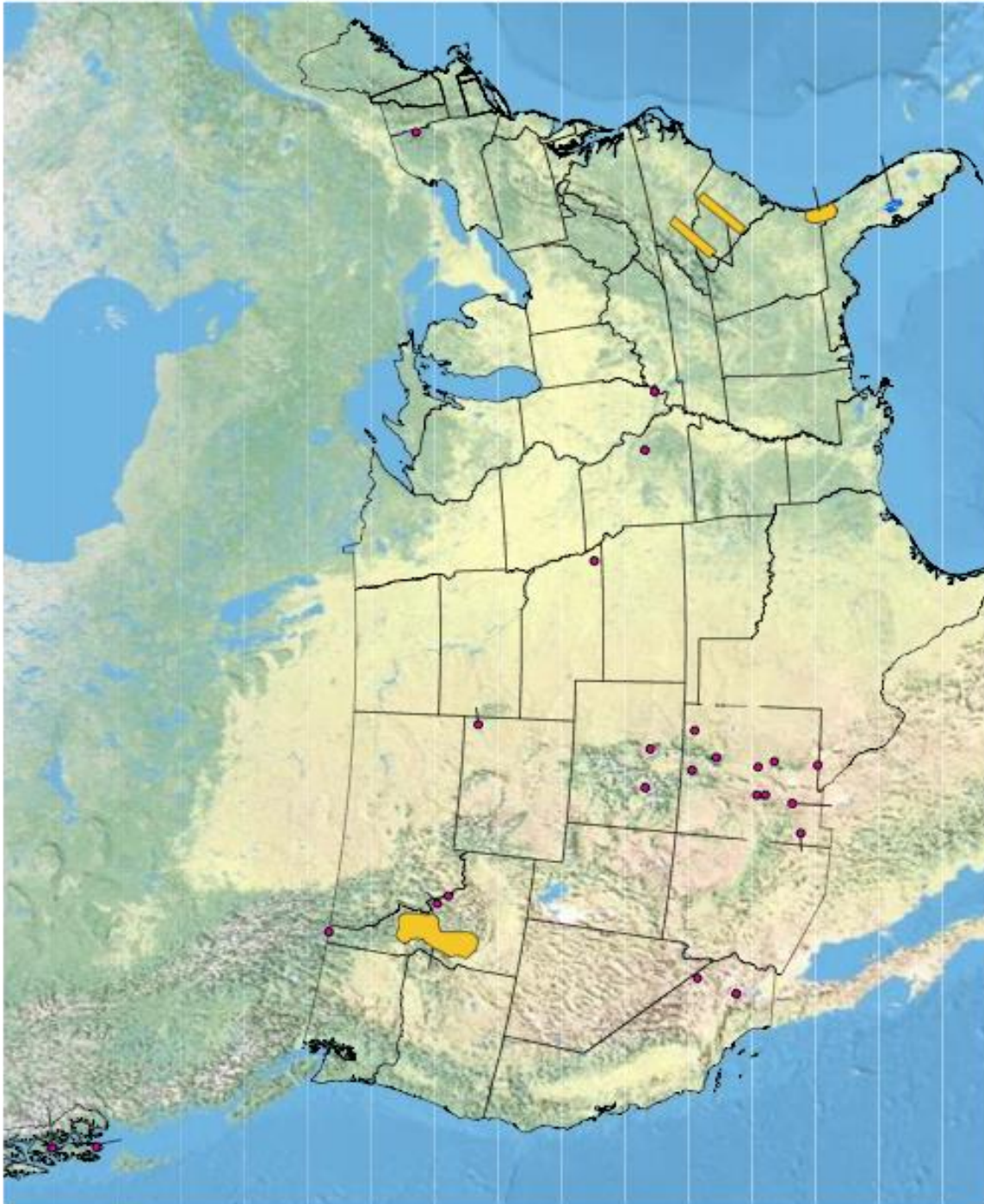
To make matters worse, foreign import lobbyists in Washington DC have worked against our many prior attempts to get reasonable legislation passed to provide proper regulatory oversight and certainty to those Americans seeking permits to mine. These nefarious political actions and payments are sustaining 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

Principal rare earth elements deposits of the United States.





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

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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

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*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*