

**Dr. Walter G. Copan, Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer, Colorado School of Mines**

"A sustainable and reliable critical mineral supply chain will require modern mining and mineral operations that prioritize the environment and community and support economic and national security," said Dr. Walter G. Copan, Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer at Colorado School of Mines. "As a global leader in mining engineering and research, Colorado School of Mines commends Senator Hickenlooper and Senator Tillis' leadership in advancing next-generation mining technologies and innovations that support the economic, energy, and national security future of the United States."

**Dave Kanagy, Executive Director and CEO, Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration**

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) applauds Senators Hickenlooper and Tillis for introducing the Uneath Innovation Act, and Senators Hickenlooper, Graham, Cooper and Young for introducing the Critical Materials Future Act of 2025.

Both bills recognize the urgency in reducing the Nation's dangerous reliance on imports of minerals from adversaries like China, and include effective measures to increase domestic mineral exploration, production, and processing to strengthen U.S. mineral supply chains.

SME is especially pleased that the country's mining schools are included in the Uneath Innovation Act. Investments in research programs at these schools will be one of the most efficient ways to increase domestic mineral production and processing and to develop innovative new mineral extraction and processing technologies.

**Michele Stockwell, president of Bipartisan Policy Center Action (BPC Action)**

"BPC Action applauds the introduction of two bipartisan bills —the Critical Materials Future Act by Sens. Hickenlooper (D-CO) and Graham (R-SC) and the Uneath Innovation Act by Sens. Hickenlooper (D-CO) and Tillis (R-NC)—designed to strengthen U.S. leadership in the global critical minerals industry. These bills provide essential federal support, improve coordination, and give U.S. critical mineral projects the price and offtake certainty they need to invest and scale up production. They are vital to reducing reliance on China and securing America's energy and national security supply chains."

**Adam Kovacevich, CEO, Chamber of Progress**

"The Unearth Innovation Act is a win-win: by spurring mining innovation, we'll power our tech-driven future and lower energy costs for American families."

**Nathan Ratledge, Founder and CEO, Alta Resource Technologies**

"Alta Resource Technologies commends Senator Hickenlooper's leadership in advancing bipartisan solutions to bolster domestic critical mineral production. The Critical Materials Future Act and the Unearth Innovation Act take important steps to support the commercialization of new technologies, which early-stage companies like Alta are pioneering to secure America's mineral supply chains. Expanding eligibility for federal support to include emerging innovators is a key provision that ensures the materials needed to power the 21st-century economy are sourced responsibly and domestically. Sustained policy action will be key to ensuring long-term investment and stability in this sector."

**Rahul Iyer, Partner at MineTech Ventures**

"MineTech Ventures is focused on developing and deploying next generation mining technologies, which are essential to US competitiveness, national security, and environmental sustainability. America must catalyze the nation's unparalleled creativity and entrepreneurial drive to make this vision a reality and the Critical Materials Future Act and the Unearth Innovation Act provides much needed focus on not only resources, but technology, people, and circularity."

**The Key Minerals Forum**

"These two bills are vital parts of developing a coherent USG strategy towards critical minerals that de-risk our supply chain; drive innovation to achieve responsible mining at the lowest cost and to ensure that minerals development acts as a catalyst to grow the prosperity of First Nations on whose land much of our undeveloped minerals are located"

**Daniel Correa, CEO, the Federation of American Scientists**

"The United States desperately needs a new and proactive approach to developing responsible, resilient critical minerals supply chains for the technologies that undergird our future. The Federation of American Scientists applauds the reintroduction of the Critical Materials Future Act and the Unearth Innovation Act. The Critical Materials Future Act is a strong starting point for providing necessary price and offtake certainty to domestic processing projects, which face particularly strong headwinds due to the narrow margins and severe global market concentration in the industry. Through investing in near-term capacity and innovating on byproduct recovery and recycling, re-mining and remediation, and robust community engagement, these bills will ensure the stability and longevity of critical minerals supply chains for the U.S."

**Jesse Edmondson, CEO, US Critical Minerals**

"For well over a decade, the Senate ENR committee has been a thought-leader and champion" of domestic critical mineral policy, and perhaps most importantly, a shining example of bipartisan cooperation to achieve our national and energy security objectives concerning critical mineral supply chains. US Critical Minerals offers our full support for these two bills from Senator Hickenlooper and look forward to supporting the continued growth and resilience of US critical mineral supply chains."

**Albert Gore, Executive Director, Zero Emission Transportation Association (ZETA)**

"ZETA thanks Senator Hickenlooper for his continued leadership in the mining and mineral supply chain space. The National Critical Minerals Council Act and the Unearth Innovation Act serve to support cohesion and ongoing innovation in the critical mineral sector. A whole-of-government approach is key to ensuring the continued advancement of the sector in the United States, and new research and development into cutting edge technologies is the best way to keep America competitive in the global critical minerals marketplace. ZETA appreciates Senator Hickenlooper's attention to these crucial issues, and we look forward to continued success in the domestic mining and clean energy sectors in the years to come."

**Sarah Venuto, Executive Director, American Critical Minerals Association**

“The American Critical Minerals Association applauds Senators Hickenlooper, Graham, Coons and Young for their continued bipartisan leadership to advance a more independent, secure and reliable U.S. critical minerals sector. The way in which we secure, produce and process critical minerals for the benefit of U.S. industry must evolve. In the last several years, Congress and the US government took essential steps to spotlight and address the need to onshore and reshore the supply chain for critical materials. In order to protect those investments and maximize growth, we must address the volatile market dynamics and anticompetitive practices that are challenging U.S. investors and companies. Passing bipartisan foundational policy such as the Critical Materials Future Act and the Unearth Innovation Act is more important than ever.”

**Abigail Hunter, executive director of SAFE’s Center for Critical Minerals Strategy**

“The greatest strategic advantage the U.S. has in the race with China is innovation and ingenuity,” says Abigail Hunter, executive director of SAFE’s Center for Critical Minerals Strategy. “The Unearth Innovation Act will harness that entrepreneurial spirit to develop new technologies, activate relevant stakeholders, and foster the collaboration needed to meet our challenges head-on.”