

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 22, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

I write to you to express support in engaging with partners and allies to promote U.S. access to critical minerals and materials and rare earths. I urge this Administration to pursue robust multilateral cooperation agreements, such as the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), to establish and strengthen sustainable critical minerals and materials and rare earths supply chains internationally.

The People's Republic of China (PRC) controls over 90 percent of the world's rare earth minerals, used in automobile, energy, defense, healthcare, and other manufacturing across the globe.¹ As a response to the Administration's April 2, 2025, tariffs, the PRC tightened export restrictions on critical minerals and has been slow to loosen them after the mid-April pause. Of the top 20 minerals vital to the energy sector, the PRC is the top refiner of all but one, based on IEA and USGS data.² The American auto, semiconductor, defense, and other industries are dangerously reliant on the PRC for their supply or refinement of these minerals. The U.S. currently sources 80 percent of these rare earth metals from the PRC.³

When the PRC uses export controls, it chokes the supply of necessary inputs for U.S. manufacturers, interrupting production and driving up costs. Our nation's vulnerabilities to the PRC are clear and evidenced by the fact that the PRC has used export controls on several occasions to inflict pain on the U.S. economy. We have also seen the PRC use the critical minerals supply chain as an economic weapon to punish our allies and send a message to other foreign governments.

The best way to combat these export controls is to work with our allies and partners to diversify supply chains away from the PRC. Overreliance on any single country for critical minerals exposes domestic manufacturers to market manipulation, supply chain disruptions, and economic coercion. For instance, Australia—a key U.S. ally—produces nearly 40 percent of the world's lithium, widely used in EV manufacturing.⁴ Indonesia itself produces over 60 percent of

¹ Pascale Massot. "The China Challenge in Critical Minerals: The Case for Asymmetric Resilience." *The Diplomat*, 6 June 2025, [The China Challenge in Critical Minerals: The Case for Asymmetric Resilience – The Diplomat](#)

² The International Energy Agency. "Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2025," *The International Energy Agency*, 2024, [Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2025 – Analysis - IEA](#)

³ Hyong-Min, Kim. Jarlwala, Deep. The Not-So-Rare Earth Elements: A Question of Supply and Demand. Kleinman Center for Energy Policy. September 2021. [kleinmanenergy.upenn.edu/research/publications/the-not-so-rare-earth-elements-a-question-of-supply-and-demand](#)

⁴ Ibid.

the world's nickel, used in renewable energy and electronics.⁵ The Democratic Republic of the Congo, another huge player, produces almost 70 percent of the world's cobalt.⁶ Amid this global abundance, over 60 percent of the production of those minerals goes to refineries in the PRC, increasing their control of the flow of minerals.⁷ The U.S. should work with these key allies in mineral production and shift both supply chains and refining infrastructure away from the PRC, allowing for a resilient and diversified flow of minerals throughout the world.

The Biden Administration pursued this effort through the [Minerals Security Partnership](#) (MSP), which has largely been successful in its collaboration with nations to derisk supply chains. Built on the recognition that the U.S. and partners must work together to reduce reliance on the PRC, MSP's focus on strong labor and environmental standards has ensured supply chains are free of the PRC's worst policies and practices such as their use of forced labor and lax environmental laws. This year chaired by a key ally in South Korea, the MSP has established over 32 projects, including a \$40 million graphite mine in Tanzania. Graphite, a mineral important to auto manufacturing, nuclear power, steel, and other key industries, has been blocked by PRC export controls since 2023. The Mahenge project in Tanzania, for example, will be one of the largest graphite mines in the world and, under the MSP, sets a precedent for future derisking across the world. The success of MSP in facilitating the Mahenge project points to the value of the collaborative agreement, one that must be expanded on.

MSP's multilateral engagement has continued since its inception. South Korea has maintained their commitment to collaborate with Australia, Canada, and Brazil.⁸ This is part of a wider push by the Indo-Pacific, especially among South Korea and Japan, to derisk their manufacturing from the PRC and seek collaborative chains with allies and partners. With U.S. leadership, these countries could further their goal of resiliency while abiding by environmental manufacturing and anti-forced labor standards.

While this Administration's actions—including two executive orders and a pursuant initiation of a Section 232 investigation into critical minerals imports—may aid in supporting the goal of critical mineral supply chain stability, this is not a challenge we can overcome ourselves. The United States must engage allies and partners to build secure, resilient, and sustainable critical mineral supply chains that are not linked to the PRC's economic coercion. Avenues like the MSP provide a venue to do just that. We encourage you to reinforce your leadership in this valuable venue for cooperation, reengage in plurilateral cooperation on critical minerals security through the MSP, and take leadership of this crucial partnership.

As the Department of State considers this request, we respectfully request answers to the following questions no later than August 15, 2025.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ KIEP, "Korea's Strategy for Critical Minerals: Navigating New Trade Rules and Global Challenges," *Korean Economic Institute*, April 7, 2025. https://keia.org/shared_publication/koreas-strategy-for-critical-minerals-navigating-new-trade-rules-and-global-challenges/

- 1) Please describe in detail the current state of the Minerals Security Partnership under the State Department.
- 2) What efforts is the State Department making to cooperate with industry and foreign governments (both mining countries and resource countries) to expand resilient and sustainable supply chains of critical minerals under the MSP?
- 3) Which governments are the State Department engaging in ensuring stable, affordable, and clean supplies of critical minerals as an alternative to PRC-involved supplies?
- 4) How have the State Department's cuts and reorganization plans impacted critical mineral cooperation efforts?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Ranking Member
House Select Committee on the CCP