

Chairman Moolenaar Opening Remarks
Critical Minerals Policy Working Group Final Meeting
12.11.24

Thank you to Congressman Wittman, Congresswoman Castor, the policy working group members, and the staff for their hard work.

Critical minerals are one of our foremost points of vulnerability at the hands of the Chinese Communist Party.

The CCP knows this and is determined to dominate these all-important supply chains.

Just last week the CCP imposed controls on the export of gallium, germanium, antimony, and other key high-tech materials critical to the manufacturing of advanced defense and national security technology.

These actions demonstrate what our Committee has long maintained: that the CCP sees trade as a tool of economic coercion and will utilize every point of leverage it possesses over American companies and supply chains.

Today, the CCP processes 95% of the world's manganese, 73% of its cobalt, 70% of graphite, and 63% of global nickel. As with gallium, germanium, and antimony, the CCP can restrict or cut off these supplies at a moment's notice.

Identifying alternative sources of these critical minerals is among the most urgent national security tasks this Select Committee has identified over the past two years.

Under the leadership of Representatives Wittman and Castor, this working group has led this effort, quickly identifying the problem and proposing ambitious solutions that will help secure these supplies.

They have put aside partisan differences to find common ground, turning many of the bipartisan recommendations in our December economic report into specific bills that will secure America in the next Congress.

I am proud of what they have accomplished this year and look forward to working with the members here today to drive these bills in the new Congress.