

Coffman Lauds House Passage of Rare Earths Research Bill

Calls on Colleagues to Pass Comprehensive RESTART Act

(WASHINGTON) - Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO) issued the following statement lauding the bipartisan passage of H.R. 6160, the Rare Earths and Critical Materials Revitalization Act of 2010, by the U.S. House of Representatives today. Coffman is an original co-sponsor of H.R. 6160 and author of H.R. 4866, the RESTART Act which through a series of broad measures would attempt to reestablish a competitive domestic rare earths supply chain:

“I applaud my colleagues for taking this step toward developing a comprehensive solution to the current rare earths crisis. I am encouraged that my colleagues have followed the provisions I worked to have included in last year’s Defense Authorization bill and recognize the urgency of this crisis. Fostering increased research and development through the Department of Energy is an important step, but we must take additional action and address the entire supply chain. We must also further address the current regulatory environment and the endless stream of environmental litigation hampering exploration and development.”

“It is absolutely critical to our national security that we immediately pursue additional measures and I am calling on my colleagues to pass the RESTART Act. The looming crisis can be averted, but America needs to act now.”

Coffman previously introduced legislation included in last year’s defense authorization bill requiring the Comptroller General to determine the extent to which specific military weapons systems are currently dependent upon rare-earth materials and the degree to which the U.S. is dependent upon sources that could be interrupted or disrupted. That report was completed in

April of this year and the Department of Defense is currently undertaking another study, due to be complete in the coming weeks.

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