

## Coffman Forms New Caucus to Push for Rare Earths Supply Chain

**(LONE TREE, CO)** –Today Congressman Mike Coffman, R-CO, launched a new Congressional caucus aimed at reestablishing a domestic supply chain of rare earths elements. Coffman said he decided to establish the caucus to contribute to the education of his colleagues, to ensure the best information is available to Congress, and to work towards solutions to the pressing rare earth supply chain problem.

“With the establishment of this caucus, I am confident we will be able to build awareness on Capitol Hill about the critical threat China’s trade policies of restricting rare earth exports pose to both the economic and national security of the United States,” Coffman said. “We cannot afford inaction on this issue any longer.”

Coffman, an early rare earth advocate in Congress, first introduced his RESTART Act in 2009 to shift our reliance away from China and to rebuild a competitive supply chain for rare earth elements in the U.S. In addition to his legislative efforts, Coffman has also leaned on the U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk to take action with the World Trade Organization against China’s illegal rare earth trade policies.

China supplies about 95 percent of the world’s rare earth metals, used in everything from wind turbines, electric car batteries, and smart phones to advanced weapons systems. Chinese officials have repeatedly restricted rare earth exports in an attempt to drive up prices, including most recently shutting down production at their largest rare-earth mine for one month.

Coffman said he hopes the new caucus will help bring Members of Congress together to promote awareness of, and solutions to, the issues and concerns related to rare earth elements, including in the areas of national security, resource development, economic security, trade matters, and renewable energy.

“I am looking forward to working with my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to end our unacceptable reliance on China for these critical raw materials,” Coffman said. “We must restart a viable domestic supply chain of rare earth elements now.”

Caucus membership includes:

Rep. Mike Coffman, R-CO, chair

Hank Johnson, D-GA, co-chair

Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-MD

Rep. Leonard Boswell, D-IA

Rep. Bruce Braley, D-IA

Rep. Paul A. Gosar, R-AZ

Rep. Tom Latham, R-IA

Rep. Robert E. Latta, R-OH

Rep. Dave Loebsack, D-IA

Rep. Cynthia M. Lummis, R-WY

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-WA

Rep. Devin Nunes, R-CA

Rep. Steve King, R-IA

Rep. Joe Wilson, R-SC

Rep. Don Young, R-AK