



The United States Magnetic Materials Association (USMMA), a trade association representing high performance magnet producers and suppliers, briefed members of Congress today at the inaugural meeting of the Congressional Rare Earths Caucus.

The briefing, entitled "Rare Earths: State of the Industry," focused on efforts to rebuild a domestic and allied nation rare earth supply chain and develop additional supplies of the critical materials. It also included a discussion on current bills pending before Congress, efforts by the Department of Defense to develop a rare earth inventory, and the USMMA's six-point plan to address the rare earth supply crisis.

"We are pleased to have the USMMA as the first speaker for the inaugural meeting of the Rare Earths Caucus," said caucus-founder Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO) before the meeting. "We've worked with them for several years to create sound policy that will reestablish a competitive domestic supply chain for rare earth elements and I look forward to their briefing."

Jeff Green, USMMA advisory board member and president of J.A. Green & Company, presented the briefing.

"The USMMA is honored to have been chosen to be the speaker at the inaugural meeting of the Congressional Rare Earths Caucus," said Green. "The rare earth issue is a problem that has the potential to impact our economy and national security at every level and we strongly support the caucus' efforts to confront it head-on."

Rare earth materials are essential to numerous renewable energy and defense systems including wind turbines, hybrid-electric batteries, computer hard drives and precision-guided

munitions. Today, the United States is totally dependent on foreign sources for many rare earth materials. China currently provides over 94% of the world's rare earth oxides and dominates the world's rare earth refining, alloying and manufacturing.

Since its founding in 2006, USMMA has been a leader in advocating for a secure, competitive domestic rare earth supply chain to support the growth of green job technology and manufacturing as well as the nation's defense industry. USMMA members have advocated for the 2009 GAO report on rare earths, the 2010 requirement for DOD to review the issue, the RESTART bill, and the 2011 DoD Rare Earth Inventory plan.

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