



The United States Magnetic Materials Association (USMMA), a trade association representing high performance magnet producers and suppliers, today applauded congressional defense authorizers for including a provision in the final version of the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to conduct a rare earth inventory assessment at the Department of Defense.

The provision, originally included in the bill as an amendment by Congressman Mike Coffman (R-CO), would require the Defense Logistics Agency to conduct an assessment of rare earth materials, and forms of those materials, required to support the needs of the Department of Defense. It would also consider potential market impacts and steps the department could implement to use the inventory as a catalyst to development of secure sources of rare earth oxides, metals, alloys and magnets. Finally, the assessment will consider the viability of potential producers in the next five years. Findings and recommendations based on the report would be submitted to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees for review.

"This is a huge step toward re-establishing a secure, multi-source rare earth industry here in the United States," said Ed Richardson, president of the USMMA. "We applaud the armed services committees for their foresight and thank Congressman Coffman for his tireless work on this important issue."

The NDAA authorizes funding for the Department of Defense and other defense-related programs. The final legislation, called the Conference Report, was settled on after the House and Senate passed two different versions of the bill.

The NDAA now heads back to the House where lawmakers hope to have a final up-or-down vote by Wednesday. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill later this week. It may still face a challenge from President Obama, who previously threatened to veto the legislation over a

number of unrelated policy issues. The NDAA has passed every year for the past 50 years.

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