

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1130

To require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 25, 2025

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. KELLY, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. GALLEGO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Technology Grants to
5 Strengthen Domestic Mining Education Act of 2025” or
6 the “Mining Schools Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. TECHNOLOGY GRANTS TO STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC**
2 **MINING EDUCATION.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the
5 Mining Professional Development Advisory Board
6 established by subsection (d)(1).

7 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
8 term “institution of higher education” has the
9 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

11 (3) MINING INDUSTRY.—The term “mining in-
12 dustry” means the mining industry of the United
13 States, consisting of the search for, and extraction,
14 beneficiation, refining, smelting, processing, reproc-
15 essing, and recycling of, naturally occurring metal
16 and nonmetal minerals from the earth.

17 (4) MINING PROFESSION.—The term “mining
18 profession” means the body of jobs directly relevant
19 to—

20 (A) the exploration, planning, execution,
21 and remediation of metal and nonmetal mining
22 sites; and

23 (B) the extraction, including the separa-
24 tion, refining, alloying, smelting, concentration,
25 processing, reprocessing, and recycling, of min-
26 eral ores.

1 (5) MINING SCHOOL.—The term “mining
2 school” means—

3 (A) a mining, metallurgical, geological, or
4 mineral engineering program accredited by the
5 Accreditation Board for Engineering and Tech-
6 nology, Inc., that is located at an institution of
7 higher education, including a Tribal College or
8 University (as defined in section 316(b) of the
9 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
10 1059c(b))); or

11 (B) a geology or engineering program or
12 department that is located at a 4-year public in-
13 stitution of higher education located in a State
14 the gross domestic product of which in 2021
15 was not less than \$2,000,000,000 in the com-
16 bined categories of “Mining (except oil and
17 gas)” and “Support activities for mining”, ac-
18 cording to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

19 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of Energy.

21 (b) DOMESTIC MINING EDUCATION STRENGTHENING
22 PROGRAM.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
23 retary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the
24 United States Geological Survey), shall—

1 (1) establish a grant program to strengthen do-
2 mestic mining education; and

3 (2) under the program established in paragraph
4 (1), award competitive grants to mining schools for
5 the purpose of recruiting and educating the next
6 generation of mining engineers and other qualified
7 professionals to meet the future energy and mineral
8 needs of the United States.

9 (c) GRANTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the grant
11 program established under subsection (b)(1), the
12 Secretary shall award not more than 10 grants each
13 year to mining schools.

14 (2) SELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum ex-
16 tent practicable, the Secretary shall select re-
17 cipients for grants under paragraph (1) to en-
18 sure geographic diversity among grant recipi-
19 ents to ensure that region-specific specialties
20 are developed for region-specific geology.

21 (B) TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall
22 award the grants under paragraph (1) by not
23 later than the later of—

24 (i) the date that is 180 days after the
25 start of the applicable fiscal year; and

1 (ii) the date that is 180 days after the
2 date on which the Act making full-year ap-
3 propriations for the Department of Energy
4 for the applicable fiscal year is enacted.

5 (3) RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—In selecting recipients
7 for grants under paragraph (1) and deter-
8 mining the amount of each grant, the Sec-
9 retary, to the maximum extent practicable, shall
10 take into consideration the recommendations of
11 the Board under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
12 subsection (d)(3).

13 (B) SELECTION STATEMENT.—In selecting
14 recipients for grants under paragraph (1), the
15 Secretary shall—

16 (i) in response to a recommendation
17 from the Board, submit to the Board a
18 statement that describes—

19 (I) whether the Secretary accepts
20 or rejects, in whole or in part, the rec-
21 ommendation of the Board; and

22 (II) the justification and ration-
23 ale for any rejection, in whole or in
24 part, of the recommendation of the
25 Board; and

1 (ii) not later than 15 days after
2 awarding a grant for which the Board sub-
3 mitted a recommendation, publish the
4 statement submitted under clause (i) on
5 the Department of Energy website.

6 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—A mining school receiving
7 a grant under paragraph (1) shall use the grant
8 funds—

9 (A) to recruit students to the mining
10 school; and

11 (B) to enhance and support programs re-
12 lated to, as applicable—

13 (i) mining, mineral extraction effi-
14 ciency, and related processing technology;

15 (ii) emphasizing critical mineral and
16 rare earth element exploration, extraction,
17 and refining;

18 (iii) reclamation technology and prac-
19 tices for active mining operations;

20 (iv) the development of reprocessing
21 systems and technologies that facilitate
22 reclamation that fosters the recovery of re-
23 sources at abandoned mine sites;

24 (v) mineral extraction, refining, proc-
25 essing, reprocessing, and recycling methods

1 that reduce environmental and human im-
2 pacts;

3 (vi) technologies to extract, refine,
4 separate, smelt, produce, or recycle min-
5 erals, including rare earth elements;

6 (vii) reducing dependence on foreign
7 energy and mineral supplies through in-
8 creased domestic critical mineral produc-
9 tion and recycling;

10 (viii) enhancing the competitiveness of
11 United States energy and mineral tech-
12 nology exports;

13 (ix) the extraction or processing of co-
14 inciding mineralization, including rare
15 earth elements, within coal or other ores,
16 coal or mineral processing byproduct, over-
17 burden, or residue from coal, minerals, or
18 other ores;

19 (x) enhancing technologies and prac-
20 tices relating to mitigation of acid mine
21 drainage, reforestation, and revegetation in
22 the reclamation of land and water re-
23 sources adversely affected by mining;

24 (xi) enhancing exploration and charac-
25 terization of new or novel deposits, includ-

1 ing rare earth elements and critical min-
 2 erals within phosphate rocks, uranium-
 3 bearing deposits, and other nontraditional
 4 sources;

5 (xii) meeting challenges of extreme
 6 mining conditions, such as deeper deposits
 7 or cold region mining;

8 (xiii) mineral economics, including
 9 analysis of supply chains, future mineral
 10 needs, and unconventional mining re-
 11 sources; and

12 (xiv) mining practices that reduce en-
 13 vironmental impact, including mining prac-
 14 tices that reduce water usage, mitigate
 15 surface disturbance, and promote overall
 16 resource efficiency.

17 (d) MINING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVI-
 18 SORY BOARD.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established an advi-
 20 sory board, to be known as the “Mining Professional
 21 Development Advisory Board”.

22 (2) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be com-
 23 posed of 6 members, to be appointed by the Sec-
 24 retary not later than 180 days after the date of en-
 25 actment of this Act, of whom—

1 (A) 3 shall be individuals who are actively
2 working in the mining profession and for the
3 mining industry; and

4 (B) 3 shall have experience in academia
5 implementing and operating professional skills
6 training and education programs in the mining
7 sector.

8 (3) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

9 (A) evaluate grant applications received
10 under subsection (c) and make recommenda-
11 tions to the Secretary for selection of grant re-
12 cipients under that subsection;

13 (B) propose the amount of the grant for
14 each applicant recommended to be selected
15 under subparagraph (A); and

16 (C) perform oversight to ensure that grant
17 funds awarded under subsection (c) are used
18 for the purposes described in paragraph (4) of
19 that subsection.

20 (4) TERM.—A member of the Board shall serve
21 for a term of 4 years.

22 (5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Board—

23 (A) shall not affect the powers of the
24 Board; and

