

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2550

To provide for international cooperation to secure critical mineral supply chains, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2025

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. CURTIS) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To provide for international cooperation to secure critical mineral supply chains, 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 “Critical Minerals Part-
5 nership Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF CRITICAL MINERAL.**

7 In this Act, the term “critical mineral”—

8 (1) has the meaning given the term in section

9 7002 of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606);

10 and

(2) includes any other mineral or mineral material determined by the Secretary of State—

(A) to be essential to the economic or national security of the United States; and

(B) to have a supply chain vulnerable to disruption.

**SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON CRITICAL MINERAL
SUPPLY CHAINS.**

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to collaborate with allies and partners of the United States to build secure and resilient critical minerals supply chains, including in the mining, processing, reclamation and recycling, and valuation of critical minerals;

(2) to prioritize the development and production of critical mineral resources domestically, including through improvement of systems for collecting and recycling critical minerals from used and discarded goods or equipment, both to supply domestic needs and for export to allies and partners that participate in secure and resilient supply chains for critical minerals;

(3) to reduce or eliminate reliance and dependence on critical mineral supply chains controlled by the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federa-

1 tion, Iran, or any other adversary of the United
2 States;

3 (4) to work with allies and partners on enhanc-
4 ing evaluation capability and technology in trusted
5 countries that produce critical minerals to avoid the
6 export of critical minerals, or products or compo-
7 nents that are dependent on critical minerals, that
8 are controlled by adversaries of the United States;

9 (5) to identify and implement market-based in-
10 centives for the purposes of facilitating the creation
11 and maintenance of secure and resilient critical min-
12 eral supply chains, including for reclamation and re-
13 cycling of critical mineral resources from waste
14 streams, in collaboration with allies and partners;

15 (6) to prioritize securing critical mineral supply
16 chains in United States foreign policy, including
17 through the use of economic tools to invest respon-
18 sibly in projects in partner countries in a manner
19 that both benefits local populations and bolsters the
20 supply of critical minerals to the United States and
21 allies and partners of the United States; and

22 (7) that collaboration with allies and partners
23 to build secure and resilient critical mineral supply
24 chains shall not replace United States efforts to in-

1 crease domestic development and production or recy-
2 cling of critical minerals.

3 **SEC. 4. INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS RELATING TO**
4 **PROTECTING CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY**
5 **CHAINS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to ne-
7 gotiate an agreement with international partners for the
8 purposes of establishing a coalition—

9 (1) to facilitate—

10 (A) the mining, processing, recycling, and
11 enhanced access to the supply of critical min-
12 erals; and

13 (B) advanced manufacturing that relies on
14 the practical application of critical minerals;
15 and

16 (2) to secure an adequate supply of critical
17 minerals and relevant products, manufacturing in-
18 puts, and components that are heavily dependent on
19 critical mineral resource inputs for the United
20 States and other members of the coalition (in this
21 section referred to as “member countries”).

22 (b) NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES.—The overall objec-
23 tives for negotiating an agreement described in subsection
24 (a) should be—

(1) to establish mechanisms for member countries to build secure and resilient supply chains for critical minerals, including in—

(A) the mining, refinement, reclamation and recycling, processing, and valuation of critical minerals; and

(B) advanced manufacturing of products, components, and materials that are dependent on critical minerals;

(2) to improve economies of scale and joint cooperation with international partners in securing access and means of production throughout the supply chains of critical minerals and manufacturing processes dependent on critical minerals;

(3) to establish mechanisms, with appropriate market-based disciplines, that provide and maintain opportunities among member countries for creating industry economies of scale to attract joint investment among those countries, including—

(A) cooperation on joint projects, including cost-sharing on building appropriate infrastructure to access deposits of critical minerals; and

(B) creation or enhancement of national and international programs to support the development of robust industries by providing ap-

1 appropriate sector-specific incentives, such as po-
 2 litical risk and other insurance opportunities, fi-
 3 nancing, and other support, for—

4 (i) mining and processing critical min-
 5 erals;

6 (ii) manufacturing of products, com-
 7 ponents, and materials that are dependent
 8 on critical minerals and are essential to
 9 consumer technology products or have im-
 10 portant national security implications;

11 (iii) building capacities and creating
 12 incentives for recovering used, spent, or
 13 discarded equipment and consumer goods
 14 containing critical minerals to be safely
 15 handled and recycled; and

16 (iv) associated transportation needs
 17 that are tailored to the handling, move-
 18 ment, and logistics management of critical
 19 minerals and products, components, and
 20 materials that are dependent on critical
 21 minerals;

22 (4) to establish market-based rules for member
 23 countries regarding adoption of qualifying tax and
 24 other incentives to stimulate investment, as balanced

1 by market-based disciplines to ensure a fair playing
2 field among those countries;

3 (5) to establish recommended best practices to
4 protect—

5 (A) labor rights;

6 (B) the natural environment and eco-
7 systems near critical mineral industrial sites;
8 and

9 (C) safety of communities near critical
10 mineral industrial activities;

11 (6) to advance economic growth in developing
12 countries with critical mineral reserves and capac-
13 ities for the recovery and recycling of critical min-
14 erals, including for the benefit of the citizens of
15 those countries;

16 (7) to establish rules allowing for the establish-
17 ment of a consortium that is resourced and empow-
18 ered to bid and compete in acquiring and securing
19 potential deposits of critical minerals in countries
20 that are not members of the coalition described in
21 subsection (a) (in this section referred to as “non-
22 member countries”);

23 (8) to establish a mechanism for joint resource
24 mapping with procedures for equitable sharing of in-

1 formation on potential deposits of critical minerals
2 not less frequently than annually;

3 (9) to establish appropriate mechanisms for the
4 recognition and enforcement by a member country of
5 judgments relating to environmental and related
6 harms caused by mining operations within the terri-
7 tory of the member country in contravention of that
8 country's laws; and

9 (10) to improve supply chain security among
10 member countries by providing for national treat-
11 ment investment protections among those countries
12 that are equal to, or better than, the standards in
13 the United States model bilateral investment treaty.

14 (c) CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED.—

15 In the course of negotiations described in subsection (a),
16 the Secretary shall consult closely and on a timely basis
17 with, and keep fully apprised of the negotiations, the Com-
18 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Com-
19 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

20 **SEC. 5. MINERALS SECURITY PARTNERSHIP AUTHORIZA-**
21 **TION.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, acting
23 through the Under Secretary of State for Economic
24 Growth, Energy, and the Environment, is authorized to

1 lead United States participation in the Minerals Security
2 Partnership, for the following purposes:

3 (1) To identify and support investment and ad-
4 vocate for commercial critical mineral mining, proc-
5 essing, and refining projects that enable robust and
6 secure critical mineral supply chains, in consultation
7 with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

8 (2) To coordinate with relevant regional bu-
9 reaus to develop regional diplomatic engagement
10 strategies related to critical minerals projects and to
11 identify projects that are priorities.

12 (3) To coordinate with United States missions
13 abroad on projects, programs, and investments that
14 enable robust and secure critical mineral supply
15 chains.

16 (4) To coordinate with current and prospective
17 members of the Minerals Security Partnership.

18 (5) To establish a mechanism for information-
19 sharing with members of the Minerals Security Part-
20 nership.

21 (6) To establish policies and procedures, and if
22 necessary, to provide funding to facilitate coopera-
23 tion on joint projects with members of the Minerals
24 Security Partnership and the Minerals Security
25 Forum, including those related to cost-sharing

1 agreements, political risk insurance, financing, eq-
2 uity investments, and other support, in coordination
3 with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

4 (7) If an agreement described in section 4 is
5 entered into, to support the establishment of the co-
6 alition described in that section.

7 (b) DATABASE.—As part of the Minerals Security
8 Partnership, the Secretary, acting through the Under Sec-
9 retary, is authorized to establish and maintain a database
10 of critical mineral projects for the purpose of providing
11 high quality and up-to-date information to the private sec-
12 tor and, at the discretion of the Under Secretary, to mem-
13 bers of the Minerals Security Partnership, in order to spur
14 greater investment, increase the resilience of global critical
15 minerals supply chains, and boost United States supply.

16 (c) QUALIFICATIONS FOR PERSONNEL.—With re-
17 spect to staffing personnel to carry out the Minerals Secu-
18 rity Partnership, the Secretary shall prioritize individuals
19 with the following qualifications:

20 (1) Substantive knowledge and experience in
21 issues related to critical minerals supply chain and
22 their application to strategic industries, including in
23 the defense, energy, and technology sectors.

24 (2) Substantive knowledge and experience in
25 large-scale multi-donor project financing and related

1 technical and diplomatic arrangements, international
2 coalition-building, and project management.

3 (3) Substantive knowledge and experience in
4 trade and foreign policy, defense industrial base pol-
5 icy, or national security-sensitive supply chain
6 issues.

7 (d) PRIVATE SECTOR COORDINATION.—The Sec-
8 retary shall ensure close coordination between the Depart-
9 ment of State, the private sector, and relevant civil society
10 groups on the implementation of this section.

11 (e) PROJECT SELECTION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The United States, through
13 its participation in the Minerals Security Partner-
14 ship, shall prioritize projects that advance the na-
15 tional and economic security interests of the United
16 States and allies and partners of the United States.

17 (2) CRITERIA REQUIREMENTS.—The United
18 States should advocate for the Minerals Security
19 Partnership to use environmental, social, or govern-
20 ance standards, including as criteria for project se-
21 lection, that are consistent with United States law or
22 international agreements approved by Congress.

1 **SEC. 6. UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTER-**
2 **NATIONAL NICKEL STUDY GROUP.**

3 (a) UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP.—The President
4 is authorized to accept the Terms of Reference of and
5 maintain membership of the United States in the Inter-
6 national Nickel Study Group.

7 (b) PAYMENTS OF ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS.—For
8 fiscal year 2025 and thereafter, the United States as-
9 sessed contributions to the International Nickel Study
10 Group may be paid from funds appropriated for “Con-
11 tributions to International Organizations”.

12 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Depart-
14 ment of State \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2026 to enhance
15 critical mineral supply chain security, including to imple-
16 ment this Act.

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