



July 11, 2012

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of our members, we urge you to vote yes on H.R. 4402, the National Strategic and Critical Materials Act of 2012. This bill is key to furthering the development of domestic rare earth resources inside the United States.

Currently, our domestic rare earths industry is nearly nonexistent, and China produces more than 94% of the rare earth oxide on the planet. These rare earths are crucial to national defense, advanced electronics and computing systems, and emergent energy technologies.

America's miners and manufacturers are ready and willing to expand domestic rare earth capacity. Dozens of small businesses have already begun exploration projects, and a select few are already progressing towards production. However, restrictive permitting processes are delaying and disrupting many of these projects, costing American jobs and increasing reliance on foreign imports. H.R. 4402 streamlines permitting requirements for developers seeking to increase the availability of rare earth elements and other strategic and critical materials.

In addition to your vote in favor of the bill, we urge you to support the following accepted amendments:

Amendment #3 (Young)

Amendment #7 (Cravaack)

The small businesses of the USMMA appreciate your attention to these issues. We stand ready to provide the U.S. with the mining and processing capabilities needed to meet the energy and technology challenges of the 21st century. We thank you for your support, and we urge you to contact us for further information about this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Richardson'.

Ed Richardson
President
U.S. Magnetic Materials Association