

July 16, 2012

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

As organizations who recognize the economic and security importance of strategic and critical materials, we write you to express our strong support for the Bingaman-Murkowski substitute amendment to S. 1113, the "Critical Minerals Policy Act of 2011." We believe this legislation is a vital step towards ensuring that the U.S. continues to have access to these materials that are vital in every-day products, energy applications, and complex defense technologies.

Our organizations, like you, understand the importance of these materials and are committed to addressing the issues that threaten to disrupt future supplies. Together, we represent more than 300,000 scientists as well as industries across the country concerned about the secure, reliable production of the entire supply chain of rare earths and other critical materials that serve the nation's defense and energy needs.

While offering our endorsement of the bill, we also hope to work with you as the bill reaches committee markup to address some minor areas of concern. We believe this bill represents the best, most comprehensive legislative proposal addressing strategic and critical materials issues to date. Despite the differing focuses of our respective organizations, we believe this legislation effectively addresses all aspects of the supply-chain from availability and production of materials to research and recycling efforts.

Too often bills similar to this are written, introduced, and forgotten. It is for this reason that we urge you to both markup the legislation and bring it to the floor of the U.S. Senate as soon as possible. If we do not take action to protect our access to strategic and critical materials, and to promote research and development with them, we will find ourselves unable to compete in a 21st century economy or produce key energy and defense technologies.

We appreciate your dedication to this issue and we look forward to the successful passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

APS Physics
US Magnetic Materials Association
Materials Research Society
Strategic Materials Advisory Council
Electron Energy Corporation
American Geosciences Institute
Federation of Materials Societies
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Physics

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Ucore Rare Metals
Umicore Group, Inc.
Society for Mining, Metallurgy, & Exploration
The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society

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cc: Senator Jeff Bingaman



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