

March 28, 2014

Chair Landrieu and Ranking Member Murkowski
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Landrieu and Ranking Member Murkowski:

On behalf of the American Physical Society and the Materials Research Society, we are writing to endorse S.1600, the Critical Minerals Policy Act of 2013. We support the bipartisan bill that has been developed by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the comprehensive approach that has been given to the development of this legislation.

Critical minerals and materials are essential to our energy, defense, medical, and commercial sectors of the U.S. economy. Understanding the availability, processing, research, and recycling issues associated with critical minerals and alternative materials while respecting their impact on the environment are important topics for our country.

Our scientific societies jointly completed a policy study in late 2010 on "Energy Critical Elements" including rare earth and other critical elements that impact rapidly evolving energy science and technology applications in the future. Senate bill S.1600 includes recommendations for federal actions that are consistent with this policy study and the recommendations of our report.

We are very appreciative of the Committee's desire to advance this legislation, and we encourage mark up and passage in the U.S. Senate in the near future.

Sincerely,



Malcolm R. Beasley, PhD
APS President



Tia Benson Tolle, PhD
MRS President

cc:

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell