

**Christopher Netram**  
*Managing Vice President*  
*Policy*

Nov. 13, 2024

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers, the largest manufacturing trade association in the United States, representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, I respectfully urge you to vote “yes” on H.R. 8446, the Critical Mineral Consistency Act.

Manufacturers need robust, secure and reliable access to critical minerals and materials (including lithium, cobalt, copper, nickel and silicon) to make innovative products that power modern life, such as computer electronics and cell phones, batteries for storage, solar panels and household appliances. The U.S. has enormous mineral wealth, including some of the world’s largest deposits of lithium and copper, and this legislation will help America remain a natural resources superpower.

Under the Energy Act of 2020, Congress directed the Department of the Interior (DOI) to identify and maintain a list of critical minerals to be routinely updated by the U.S. Geological Service (USGC). Unfortunately, the items that appeared on this list did not align with a separate critical materials list that was established under the same law to be maintained by the Department of Energy (DOE). This is causing confusion among producers because eligibility for certain grant programs, tax credits, loan guarantees or improved permitting processes are only granted to items on the DOI list.

This legislation is a priority for manufacturers to shore up supply chains of key minerals and materials by adding copper, electrical steel, silicone and silicone carbide to the national critical minerals list. These are materials that are irreplaceable in crucial energy, technology and national security applications – from electrical equipment and batteries to grid transformers and semiconductors. American manufacturing is too often reliant on foreign sources of raw and refined inputs of these materials, when we can and must be doing more to produce them domestically.

H.R. 8446 provides necessary clarity by creating parity between the DOE critical materials list and the DOI critical minerals list and ensures that key minerals to America’s national and energy security, like copper, electrical steel and silicone, are not left out.

[nam.org](https://nam.org)

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Netram  
Managing Vice President, Policy