

## **Critical Mineral Environmental Processing and Mining Clean Up Program**

Critical minerals play a key role in the manufacturing of 21st century technology like smartphones and electric car batteries. The United States imports almost all of the critical minerals it uses to manufacture these products. To reduce dependence on foreign mineral imports and keep good-paying manufacturing jobs on American soil, the United States must increase its domestic supply of critical minerals. This legislation would create a grant program through the Department of the Interior to fund and support environmentally-sound processing of critical minerals to be used in American manufacturing.

The COVID pandemic has thrown into sharp relief how vulnerable our national – and global – supply chains are to disruption. To that end, the United States must prioritize domestic production of critical minerals, which are essential to the economic and national security of our country.

### **Summary of the Critical Mineral Environmental Processing and Mining Clean Up Program:**

- Establishes a \$50 million competitive grant program through the Department of the Interior for the environmental assessment, processing, mitigation, and clean-up necessary for critical mineral processing.
- The Secretary will identify up to 20 critical minerals most important for domestic manufacturing and to reduce America's dependence on foreign mineral imports to be eligible for the grant program. The Secretary can update the list as necessary.
- An entity seeking a grant must follow standards established by the Secretary of the Interior and have a documented interest in constructing, expanding, or modernizing critical mineral facilities, while demonstrating strong labor and environmental protections.
- Eligible entities will follow all applicable environmental laws and regulations while carrying out activities under this grant program. They will also follow any other environmental standards determined to be necessary by the Secretary of the Interior.