



HR1023

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Rare Earth Elements are 17 individual minerals that are extremely important in the production of a wide variety of products that have domestic, environmental, and defensive uses, including mobile phone technology, aerospace instruments, radiation medicine, MRI & PET scanning, clean energy, radar systems, and satellites; and

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WHEREAS, It is estimated that China is responsible for more than 90% of the global supply of Rare Earth Elements in use today and has been suspected of price fixing these materials by reducing exportation of "raw" elements in favor of finished products; and

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WHEREAS, Current United States regulatory policy inhibits the processing, safe storage, and development of potential uses for Thorium, a companion element of rare earth mining and processing; this greatly enhances China's rare earth monopoly power; and

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WHEREAS, Missouri's Pea Ridge Mine in Washington County is capable of mining all 17 of the Rare Earth Elements and the by-product material, Thorium, which can be used as a source fuel for nuclear energy; Thorium is not only more abundant, but also safer than uranium; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States does not currently have a
2 facility capable of refining these Rare Earth Minerals in a
3 cost efficient manner, while China and other countries continue
4 to invest in new refining and mining technologies; and

5 WHEREAS, Rare Earth Elements are becoming increasingly
6 more important and valuable, and the United States is too
7 dependent on foreign sources that gouge prices and exploit
8 populations in favor of higher profits; and

9 WHEREAS, Rare Earths Element can be extracted from coal and
10 coal tailings and can help contribute to U.S. Rare Earth
11 production, giving new life and jobs to the State's coal
12 industry, while making it cleaner and more efficient; and

13 WHEREAS, The coal industry will benefit greatly from other
14 Rare Earth refining byproducts such as Thorium which may help
15 create clean liquid fuels from coal and make Illinois a leader
16 in clean-coal technology; and

17 WHEREAS, All by-products of Rare Earth production will be
18 safely managed and stored on the site of the central Rare Earth
19 Refinery, Strategic Reserve, and Illinois will lead the world
20 in developing the safest strategic reserve to store, trace, and
21 manage every gram of Thorium by-product from Rare Earth

1 Production; and

2 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of national security,
3 job creation, and quality of life to mine and refine Rare Earth
4 Elements within the United States to lessen our dependency on
5 China and other foreign sources of these materials; therefore,
6 be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we strongly encourage the Rare Earth Element mining that is
10 taking place at the Pea Ridge Mine in Missouri; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That we also strongly encourage the placement of
13 the Rare Earth Cooperative in East St. Louis or another
14 location within Illinois, to help shift our dependency on
15 foreign rare earth materials, bring stabilization to the global
16 market for these types of materials, and create jobs for the
17 residents of Illinois; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution are
19 presented to the members of the Illinois Congressional
20 Delegation, U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin, U.S. Senator Mark
21 Kirk, and Governor Pat Quinn.