



HR1023 Enrolled

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION 1023

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Missouri's Pea Ridge Mine in Washington County is
19 capable of mining all 17 of the Rare Earth Elements and the
20 by-product material, Thorium, which can be used as a source
21 fuel for nuclear energy; Thorium is not only more abundant, but
22 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 Earth Elements 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, It is in the best interest of national security,
18 job creation, and quality of life to mine and refine Rare Earth
19 Elements within the United States to lessen our dependency on
20 China and other foreign sources of these materials; therefore,
21 be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we strongly encourage the Rare Earth Element mining that is
4 taking place at the Pea Ridge Mine in Missouri; and be it
5 further

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

12 RESOLVED, All by-products of Rare Earth production will be
13 safely managed and stored on the site of the central Rare Earth
14 Refinery, Strategic Reserve, and Illinois will lead the world
15 in developing the safest strategic reserve to store, trace, and
16 manage every gram of Thorium by-product from Rare Earth
17 Production; 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.