

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8450

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate certain minerals for designation as critical minerals.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2024

Mrs. CAMMACK (for herself and Ms. SLOTKIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate certain minerals for designation as critical minerals.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Phosphate and Potash  
5 Protection Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. EVALUATION OF CERTAIN MINERALS FOR DESIGNA-**  
7 **TION AS CRITICAL MINERALS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the  
9 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, in  
10 consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall evalu-

1 ate potash, phosphates, and other minerals necessary for  
2 the production of fertilizer and other agricultural products  
3 used to promote crop development for designation as crit-  
4 ical minerals under section 7002(c)(4) of the Energy Act  
5 of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(c)(4)).

6 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 90 days  
7 after the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-  
8 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture,  
9 shall—

10 (1) evaluate policies in place as of the date of  
11 the enactment of this section related to the permit-  
12 ting and leasing of projects for the exploration, de-  
13 velopment, and production of the minerals described  
14 in subsection (a); and

15 (2) submit to the appropriate congressional  
16 committees recommendations to support the domes-  
17 tic production of such minerals.

18 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date  
19 of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, in con-  
20 sultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall submit  
21 to the appropriate congressional committees a report re-  
22 garding the evaluation carried out under subsection (a),  
23 including a description of how each mineral described in  
24 subsection (a) does or does not meet each requirement of  
25 the designation methodology to determine the eligibility of

1 each such mineral for inclusion on the critical minerals  
2 list.

3 (d) DESIGNATION.—If, pursuant to the evaluation  
4 carried out under subsection (a), the Secretary, in con-  
5 sultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, determines  
6 that a mineral described in subsection (a) meets each re-  
7 quirement of the designation methodology, the Secretary,  
8 in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and not  
9 later than 60 days after the date on which the report re-  
10 quired under subsection (c) is submitted, shall designate  
11 such mineral as a critical mineral under section  
12 7002(c)(4) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C.  
13 1606(c)(4)) and update the critical minerals list accord-  
14 ingly.

15 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
17 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
18 mittees” means—

19 (A) the Committee on Natural Resources  
20 and the Committee on Agriculture of the House  
21 of Representatives; and

22 (B) the Committee on Energy and Natural  
23 Resources and the Committee on Agriculture,  
24 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

1           (2) CRITICAL MINERAL.—The term “critical  
2 mineral” has the meaning given the term in section  
3 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C.  
4 1606(a)).

5           (3) CRITICAL MINERALS LIST.—The term “crit-  
6 ical minerals list” means the list of critical minerals  
7 published under section 7002(c)(3) of the Energy  
8 Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(c)(3)).

9           (4) DESIGNATION METHODOLOGY.—The term  
10 “designation methodology” means the methodology  
11 published under section 7002(c)(3) of the Energy  
12 Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(c)(3)) as of the date  
13 of the enactment of this section.

14           (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
15 the Secretary of the Interior.

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