

Joint Resolution Regarding Critical Minerals

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ann Millner

House Sponsor: Logan J. Monson

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This resolution addresses Utah's critical minerals mining industry.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- highlights Utah's history and position as a top mining jurisdiction;
- outlines Utah's potential to support national supply chain resilience for critical minerals;
- calls on private industry to form a working group to create a strategy to position Utah as a national leader for critical minerals; and
- requests the working group make specific recommendations for legislative support of the working group's strategy.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, Utah's regulatory environment ranks the state at the top of the nation for business, entrepreneurship, economic health, and economic outlook;

WHEREAS, Utah has a history as a top-producing mining jurisdiction stretching back all the way to its territorial years;

WHEREAS, Utah's modern mining industry continues the proud tradition of responsibly developing Utah's mineral estate;

WHEREAS, Utah was recently named the number one global mining jurisdiction in a survey of mining executives conducted by the Fraser Institute, a prestigious Canadian policy institute;

WHEREAS, Utah hosts 40 of the 50 critical minerals on the United States Department of the Interior's current critical minerals list, giving Utah unique opportunities to produce and

31 process critical minerals;

32 WHEREAS, Utah is geographically positioned to serve as a local and global hub for mining
33 exploration and development companies, mining services companies, and logistics operations
34 and infrastructure for the mining industry;

35 WHEREAS, Utah is a national research and education leader in mining and mineral
36 processing through its institutions of higher education, including the University of Utah, which
37 is one of only 14 accredited mining schools in the United States; and

38 WHEREAS, the Legislature has made substantial and increasing investments in recent
39 years to expand and attract investment in the state's mining industry, including the creation of
40 the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit, the expansion of the High Cost Infrastructure Tax Credit
41 to include more mining and mineral processing applications, the addition of mining to the
42 Economic Development Tax Increment Financing program, and the creation of other economic
43 development tools useful for mining, mineral processing, and logistics through the Utah Inland
44 Port Authority project areas:

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah supports
46 the creation of a national strategy to advance supply chain resilience for critical minerals.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports efforts to position Utah as a
48 national hub for producing and processing critical minerals by utilizing the state's existing
49 permitted mining operations and processing facilities, by accelerating exploration and
50 development activities to reopen historical mines and build new mines and processing
51 facilities, and by advancing research and commercialization activities to develop new
52 technologies to expand mineral production through new exploration and extraction techniques
53 and new primary and secondary processing methodologies.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature calls on private industry to form a
55 technical working group to create an executable strategy to position Utah as the national leader
56 for critical minerals.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that the working group be led
58 by a relevant mining industry association, such as the Utah Mining Association, and include
59 defense industry associations, such as 47G, international trade and investment organizations,
60 such as the World Trade Center Utah, and experts in the creation of national research centers,
61 such as AUI.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that the working group
63 identify and convene relevant state agencies and institutions of higher education to assist in the
64 creation of a strategy for Utah leadership on critical minerals.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that the working group
66 develop and publish a strategy to position Utah as the nation leader in critical minerals in an
67 expeditious manner and make recommendations to the Legislature on specific actions to take
68 to support the strategy both within the state and through advocacy for the allocation of federal
69 resources.