

1 **Concurrent Resolution Regarding Critical Minerals Development and Funding**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ann Millner

House Sponsor:

2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This resolution addresses Utah's critical minerals industry.

5 **Highlighted Provisions:**

6 This resolution:

7 ▶ highlights the urgency to develop domestic supplies of critical minerals;

8 ▶ describes Utah's position as a top mining jurisdiction;

9 ▶ outlines the role of the proposed Minerals for Industrial, National, and Economic Security

10 Center (MINES Center) in establishing Utah as a critical minerals hub;

11 ▶ expresses support for the creation of the MINES Center;

12 ▶ encourages the federal government to distribute federal money for critical minerals

13 development through block grants; and

14 ▶ calls on the state's congressional delegation to support the state's efforts to create a

15 MINES Center and to achieve a designation and funding for a critical minerals national

16 lab in the state.

17 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

18 None

19 **Other Special Clauses:**

20 None

21 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

22 WHEREAS, in 2024, the United States was 100% net import reliant for 12 critical minerals and greater than 50% net import reliant for an additional 29 critical minerals, according to the United States Geological Survey;

23 WHEREAS, the United States faces an urgent national security and economic need to secure access to critical minerals through development of domestic supplies;

24 WHEREAS, Utah has the most diverse mineral estate of any state, hosting 50 of the 60 minerals listed as critical by the United States Geological Survey;

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

34 WHEREAS, the University of Utah has one of only 14 accredited mining engineering
35 programs in the nation;

36 WHEREAS, Utah, as the crossroads of the West, is geographically positioned to serve as a
37 hub for mining exploration and development, mining services, logistics, and infrastructure for
38 the mining industry;

39 WHEREAS, in the 2025 General Session, the Legislature passed S.J.R. 11, Joint Resolution
40 Regarding Critical Minerals, which called on private industry to form a technical working
41 group to develop a strategy to position Utah as a national leader in critical minerals;

42 WHEREAS, the working group recommended the creation of an open-access user research
43 facility, provisionally called the Minerals for Industrial, National, and Economic Security
44 Center (MINES Center);

45 WHEREAS, the MINES Center would provide shared laboratory facilities to de-risk and
46 accelerate the commercialization of new mineral extraction and processing technologies;

47 WHEREAS, the MINES Center would partner with industry and academia to advance
48 extraction and processing technologies, including by providing for pilot-scale demonstrations
49 and scale up, technology benchmarking and performance validation, and autonomous sampling
50 and real-time analysis;

51 WHEREAS, the MINES Center would serve as the state's primary partner in moving
52 extraction and processing technologies from research to commercialization, including through
53 workforce training, testing and piloting of technology, federal grant coordination, and
54 development of processing capacity;

55 WHEREAS, the MINES Center would facilitate coordinated statewide critical minerals
56 development and maximize Utah's leadership in the domestic critical minerals supply chain;

57 WHEREAS, the MINES Center would further establish Utah as the nation's critical
58 minerals mining, refining, recycling, and research capital;

59 WHEREAS, the MINES Center would lay the foundation for the establishment of a critical
60 minerals national lab in the state;

61 WHEREAS, funding from the federal government is an essential component of successful
62 and timely development of domestic critical minerals supplies and the MINES Center's efforts
63 to accelerate critical minerals research and development;

64 WHEREAS, block grants to the states, a funding mechanism the federal government has

65 used since the 1960s, would be the most efficient way to distribute federal money to the states
66 for critical minerals development;

67 WHEREAS, a block grant would give the state the flexibility required for coordinated and
68 strategic critical minerals development; and

69 WHEREAS, a block grant would also allow the state to quickly identify and fund shovel
70 ready projects, immediately accelerating the extraction and processing of critical minerals in
71 the state:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
73 Governor concurring therein, supports the creation of a MINES Center within the state.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor support efforts by the
75 following to provide resources, information, and assistance to the MINES Center:

- 76 • Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining;
- 77 • Office of Energy Development;
- 78 • Department of Environmental Quality;
- 79 • Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity;
- 80 • University of Utah; and
- 81 • other relevant agencies and institutions of higher education.

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor support the MINES
83 Center's work laying the foundation for the establishment of a critical minerals national lab
84 within the state.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage the federal
86 government to utilize block grants for the distribution of critical minerals funding.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage the state's
88 congressional delegation to support the state's efforts to create a MINES Center and to position
89 Utah as a national leader in critical minerals research and development.

90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor also call on the
91 state's congressional delegation to work with the state to achieve a designation and funding for
92 a critical minerals national lab in the state.

93 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be prepared and submitted to
94 the six members representing Utah in the United States Congress.