Thank you, Mr. Chairman, once again we are here debating legislation put forward by the majority that will cut off our domestic oil and gas production in favor of more foreign imports. That follows on the legislation from last week which cut off our ability to develop our domestic critical minerals supply stream.

My colleagues are so convinced that we can simply make “new energy” happen without any consequences that they are prepared to cut off as much domestic oil and gas production as possible. However, as our former colleague Jay Inslee once wrote, “When it comes to energy…there is no free environmental lunch, only a series of trade-offs.”

Today, the International Energy Agency is out with a new report on those important tradeoffs and the real demands for critical minerals. I will submit that report for the record.

This report highlights that as our nation and the globe move into a more electrified future, we will face major shortages and economic disruption if we don’t expand our security of critical minerals.

According to the IEA, the energy sector's needs for minerals could rise by as much as 6 times by 2040. The reason for this change is because an energy system powered by wind, solar and battery energy are profoundly different from one that runs on traditional energy.

One example from the IEA is that an offshore wind plant needs 13 times more mineral resources than a similar sized gas power plant. Let me state that again, wind needs 13 times more minerals than natural gas.

This report shows that the world, not just the United States, but the world is facing a significant mismatch between the demands of potential energy industry and the availability of critical minerals that are essential to meeting those demands.

The IEA says that the production and processing of many minerals, particularly nickel, cobalt, and rare earths are concentrated in only a handful of countries. In some cases, the top 3 producers generate over 75% of supplies. Essentially the ability for us to control our own energy future can be held hostage by just a handful of bad actors.

The reality is we are sacrificing our domestic future by not working to secure our own mineral future.

We are not simply going to need more minerals for the energy, but the nations that control the mineral production and processing will increasingly control the manufacturing.

So, while we are here today continuing a markup where the majority has already voted to kill American mining jobs and shut down domestic mining.

While we are debating bills that will increase costs and close off lands to domestic oil and gas, in the real-world global energy leaders are calling on nations to defend themselves by advancing more mineral production and processing and building stockpiles of minerals to avoid hostage taking by bad actors.

If the Majority were actually concerned with how our nation's energy future will develop, what our impacts on the globe will actually be, we should be focusing on those issues and real solutions. We should be fighting to stop slave labor in China from fueling our solar industry and stop child labor in Congo from fueling our battery systems.

Yet here we are debating bills that work to shut down domestic energy, fail to focus on the real issues facing our energy future and threaten future American mining and manufacturing security.

I yield back.