

**Edward J. Markey  
Opening Statement and Question  
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources  
Tuesday, May 24, 2011**

**“Strategic and Critical Minerals Policy: Domestic Minerals  
Supplies and Demands in a time of Foreign Supply Disruptions””**

**I thank the chairman.**

**And I also appreciate his foresight in using the  
word “strategic” in the title of today’s hearing. It  
underscores the importance of dealing with this  
resource challenge with a long-term national  
purpose in mind.**

**“Drill baby Drill” or “Mine Baby Mine” doesn’t  
really capture the type of solutions we need in  
this area. We can mine every last rare earth  
molecule from the National Mall to the California**

**coast. But if we're shipping all that ore back across the Pacific to be refined and processed into valuable alloys in China and assembled into solar panels, iPods, and missile guidance systems in China, then we will have completely missed the opportunity.**

**Against all odds, American manufacturing is charging back. Anchored by a strong domestic auto industry that has re-oriented around technology and innovation, U.S. manufacturing has now expanded for 21 straight months.**

**I know all of us are happy to see this recovery happening. But it's time to take stock of how we're going to maintain this growth. Our workers are competitive globally not because they'll work for the lowest wages, but because**

**they are the most productive. They innovate. They find ways to work smarter, instead of harder.**

**That's why this hearing is so important today. This is all about the building blocks of the high-tech economy. A nation that wishes to compete in high-tech, value-added manufacturing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century must have a reliable source of critical minerals.**

**One agency which this committee has jurisdiction over that I believe must be more fully utilized to help solve the critical minerals challenge is the U.S. Geological Survey. That is why I have introduced a bill along with Representative Hank Johnson that directs the USGS to work with other geological surveys to identify and quantify**

**global rare earth deposits, improve our understanding of the distribution and formation of these deposits, analyze the state of the rare earth supply chain, and recommend steps to ensure supply. I believe H.R. 1314—the Resource Assessment of Rare Earths, or RARE Act—is an important first step that this committee could take to bring valuable government resources and expertise to bear on this problem.**

**IF OPENING STATEMENT: I hope to work with the majority on this and other legislation that address the critical mineral challenge.**

**IF Q&A: Dr. Eggert, what do you think about that bill?**

**Mr. Richardson, does your industry association support that bill?**

**[Yes]**

**Dr. Jaffe, how about you? [Go down the line.]**