



Governor Brad Little

State Capitol :: Boise, Idaho 83720
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March 4, 2022

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

On behalf of the great State of Idaho, I write in support of the United States' important copper industry. Copper is critical to our national security, our water infrastructure, and our overall electrical grid infrastructure. I strongly urge that your Department include copper on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) list of critical minerals.

This designation will significantly benefit Idaho and the United States as we continue to invest in a variety of copper intensive applications. The copper industry is a major contributor to U.S. economic and national security and is essential to nearly every facet of the U.S. economy, including construction, consumer products and the energy sector.

As the federal government continues to focus on clean energy and electric vehicle manufacturing, copper and copper alloys will continue to be vital to this high-demand production. Copper is integral to electric vehicles, electric vehicle charging stations, renewable energy applications, data processing centers, and electrical grid upgrades. That said, the federal government's interest in renewable energy is, and will continue to be, contingent upon securing an adequate supply of copper. A critical mineral designation would be a true win-win for this administration, states like Idaho, and our country.

Throughout my tenure as Governor, I have been supportive of and advocated for critical mineral designations to the federal government. Idaho is known as the "Gem State" and has myriad resources that can help ensure secure, reliable, domestic supply of critical elements and minerals that are essential to our continued success and security. Idaho has at least one copper mine in exploration stages and a critical mineral designation could help spur additional mining activity.

Idaho stands ready to help in support these important goals. Given copper's major role in state and national economic development, national security, and infrastructure, I strongly support and recommend that copper be included in the USGS list of critical minerals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho