

Project Name:

Critical Minerals Extraction Advancements by Montana Tech

Recipient:

Montana Technological University

Address:

1300 W. Park St., Butte, MT 59701

Amount Required:

\$15,000,000

Project Description:

Our national and economic security rely on a reliable supply of critical and rare earth minerals. Unfortunately, the U.S. sources many of those materials from adversarial countries which have the ability to manipulate global prices, drive out U.S. and allied competitors, and simply turn off the supply. Increasing domestic supplies of these minerals is vitally important. This funding will allow Montana Technological University, a global leader in mining engineering, to develop a critical minerals recovery facility which will provide a late-stage testing ground for technologies and methods aimed at extracting critical minerals from ores and mining-related wastes. This will increase the U.S. mineral output and improve our environmental stewardship by recycling previously discarded materials from existing mines.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2601

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Critical Minerals Extraction Advancements by Montana Tech

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Critical Minerals Extraction Advancements by Montana Tech in Fiscal Year 2027

The entity to receive funding for this project is Montana Technological University (Montana Tech) located at 1300 W. Park St., Butte, MT 59701.

Our national and economic security rely on a reliable supply of critical and rare earth minerals. Unfortunately, the U.S. sources many of those materials from adversarial countries which have the ability to manipulate global prices, drive out U.S. and allied competitors, and simply turn off the supply. Increasing domestic supplies of these minerals is vitally important. This funding will allow Montana Technological University, a global leader in mining engineering, to develop a critical minerals recovery facility which will provide a late-stage testing ground for technologies and methods aimed at extracting critical minerals from ores and mining-related wastes. This will increase the U.S. mineral output and improve our environmental stewardship by recycling previously discarded materials from existing mines.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress