

A Message From Representative Walden



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Many miners in eastern and southern Oregon continue to face long delays in permitting and other regulatory red tape that stands in the way of their ability to access our mineral resources and help grow our rural economies. A few have even died waiting for permit approvals that took more than 10 years to issue. The people deserve better than that from their federal government.

That's why I was proud to cosponsor the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2015 (H.R. 1937), which passed the House on October 22 with my strong support. This important legislation, introduced by Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV), will reduce frivolous lawsuits and expedite mining permits and reduce red tape, improving our country's mineral production and creating jobs in our rural communities.

Military technology, such as aircraft and precision-guided missiles, and consumer products like cars, smartphones, and medical supplies all have one thing in common: they require the use of critical and strategic minerals, including a subset of minerals known as "rare earths". With China and other nations currently dominating this mineral market, a domestic supply of these minerals, some of which can be found in Oregon, is important to the future and security of the United States. Unfortunately, burdensome regulations stand in the way of our ability to efficiently access these resources so we can compete with these foreign entities. We need to streamline the process for accessing these critical resources and create jobs along the way, and this legislation does just that.

H.R. 1937 is a commonsense bill that passed the House with bipartisan support, and I hope the Senate will help us take this important step towards a more secure economy and an improved national defense. I will be sure to keep you updated on any developments.

It is an honor to represent you in the U.S. Congress.

Best Regards,

Greg Walden  
U.S. Representative  
Oregon's Second District

