

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
FIRST DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1001

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May 3, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Georgia Critical Mineral Supply Chain Manufacturing Demonstration Center Equipment in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Georgia Institute of Technology, located at 237 Uncle Heinie Way Atlanta, GA 30332.

The funding would be used for the Georgia Critical Mineral Supply Chain Manufacturing Demonstration Center. The center will enable (1) Science, engineering, and commercialization that will focus on fundamental research and technology development for immediately available resource identification, exploration, and production, as well as the training of immediately available workforce. (2) Training a pipeline of workforce where a strong push to re-establish a complete domestic supply chain not only requires immediately available science/technology and workforce, but also a pipeline of future generation workforce, providing early, mid-career, and professional educational and workforce development in the area of critical minerals processing and manufacturing via engagement with regional institutions of higher education, including Technical Colleges through TCSG and HBCUs; and (3) Incorporating social science and community/justice considerations into the early stage of technology and business development, by engaging local rural and disadvantaged communities where most of the CEM resources are found.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the fast-growing demands for energy security, sustainability, and decarbonization, critical energy minerals (CEM) that are important for high-tech industry and supporting a sustainable clean energy economy, such as rare earth elements (REEs) and battery metals (e.g., Li, Co, and Ni), are facing tremendous challenges with high demand, low domestic resources/production, and heavy reliance on imports. The U.S. DOE has developed a "Critical Minerals and Materials Strategy" (FY2021-FY2031) to support domestic supply chain, with the goal of developing "...science, technology, and engineering solutions for re-establishing U.S. competitiveness in critical mineral and material supply chains". This center will help the U.S. establish domestic supply chains for these critical materials.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress