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**Committee:** House Natural Resources Committee  
**Event:** [Full Committee Markup on H.R.6162; H.R.4290; H.R.3756; H.R.7618; H.R.1687; H.R.5911; H.R.5929; H.R.1501](#)  
**Date:** April 21, 2026

***Executive Summary:***

On April 21, 2026, the House Natural Resources Committee held a markup of eight bills. Six of the bills were passed out of Committee by unanimous consent, including the Albuquerque Indian School Act of 2025 ([H.R.6162](#)); Downwinder Commemoration Act of 2025 ([H.R.4290](#)); Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025 ([H.R.3756](#)); American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act of 2026 ([H.R.7618](#)); Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act ([H.R.1687](#)); and the Crystal Reservoir Conveyance Act of 2025 ([H.R.5911](#)).

Debate centered on the Protecting Domestic Mining Act of 2025 ([H.R.1501](#)) and the Critical Minerals Supply Chain Resiliency Act ([H.R. 5929](#)). Republican members supported the legislation, arguing that they offer commonsense reforms to speed up mineral project permitting. Democrats criticized the bills for allowing the administration to circumvent tribal engagement requirements and environmental review. H.R.1501 passed out of Committee on a vote of 21-16 and H.R. 5926 passed out of Committee by voice vote.

***Member Toplines:***<sup>1</sup>

*Chair Bruce Westerman (R-AR-04):* Westerman explained that U.S. dependence on imported critical minerals is the result of policy decisions that discouraged domestic mineral development. He emphasized that materials like copper and cobalt are essential to national security and domestic energy systems and stressed that permitting reform is necessary to reduce regulatory delays and litigation. Westerman pointed to the Resolution Copper Project as a prime example of how excessive permitting requirements and unconstrained litigation can raise costs and delay mineral development. He expressed support for the legislation under consideration by the Committee as necessary measures to streamline permitting and strengthen domestic supply chains.

*Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-CA-02):* Huffman emphasized that expanding critical mineral supply chains must be balanced with environmental protection, human rights, and community impacts. He criticized Republicans for advancing policies that reduce oversight and create regulatory loopholes. Huffman raised concerns with recent government-backed equity deals and projects receiving funding through the *Defense Production Act of 1950* (DPA), alleging the process occurred behind closed doors without competitive bidding and disproportionately benefited companies connected to President **Donald Trump** and Commerce Secretary **Howard Lutnick**'s sons. He also expressed skepticism toward expanding permitting

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<sup>1</sup> Opening statements were not available online at the time of this memo's distribution.

authorities under Title 41 of the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act* (FAST-41), citing community concerns with the South32 Hermosa Project as a cautionary example, including limited transparency, potential impacts on water resources and biodiversity, and insufficient public input.

### ***Legislation Considered:***

#### **Protecting Domestic Mining Act of 2025 ([H.R.1501](#))**

##### I. Member Toplines:

- Reps. Westerman, **Pete Stauber** (R-MN-08) and **Nick Begich** (R-AK-AL) spoke in support of the bill.
  - Stauber argued that codifying mining under FAST-41 would ensure consistent permitting across administrations, strengthen national and economic security, and counter reliance on China for critical minerals. Stauber pointed to expanded mining and processing as essential for improving all domestic supply chains.
  - Begich argued that expanding domestic mining will be necessary to meet long-term global energy demand. He emphasized that producing domestic minerals ensures stronger environmental standards than importing minerals from countries with weaker regulatory frameworks.
  - Westerman echoed the need to strengthen domestic critical mineral supply chains to reduce reliance on foreign adversaries.
- Reps. Huffman and **Teresa Leger Fernandez** (D-NM-03) opposed the bill.
  - Huffman and Leger Fernandez both warned that mining projects like those proposed by Twin Metals in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota demonstrate the environmental risks of fast-tracked permitting, including water contamination and insufficient tribal consultation.

##### II. Amendments:

- [Westerman 066](#) - Extend FAST-41 “covered project” status to mineral processing.
  - Westerman argued that expanding FAST-41 to include mineral processing will strengthen the domestic supply chain. He added that the U.S. must also refine and manufacture critical minerals domestically to avoid exporting economic and strategic advantages abroad.
  - Stauber supported the amendment, noting that adding mineral processing to FAST-41 would strengthen the underlying bill by accelerating permitting and increasing domestic capacity.
  - The amendment was agreed to by voice vote.
- [Huffman 02](#) - Limit FAST-41 eligibility to only critical mineral projects and strike Section 3.
  - Huffman argued that FAST-41 “covered project” status should be reserved for critical minerals and warned that expanding eligibility to all projects would unnecessarily divert resources. Huffman singled out critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earths as vital to U.S. economic security.

- Westerman opposed the amendment. He argued that restricting FAST-41 eligibility to only the critical minerals list could create developer uncertainty.
- The amendment was not agreed to in a 16-18 vote.
- [Leger Fernandez 01](#) - Prohibits mining projects from qualifying for FAST-41 if it is owned by a foreign entity of concern (FEOC) or a subsidiary of a FEOC.
  - Reps. Leger Fernandez, Huffman, **Melanie Stansbury** (D-NM-01), and **Seth Magaziner** (D-RI-02) spoke in favor of the amendment.
    - Leger Fernandez and Huffman argued that FAST-41 expedited permitting benefits should not be extended to companies tied to foreign adversaries. Leger Fernandez also cited concerns with foreign ownership stakes in the Resolution Copper project.
    - Stansbury discussed the Oak Flat mine’s importance to local Tribes. She contended that the company with the largest stake in the project is predominantly associated with China.
  - Westerman expressed opposition to the amendment. He recognized that there is a need to limit foreign influences, but critiqued Leger Fernandez’s proposed definition of a FEOC. He contended that Congress has already addressed foreign ownership concerns and passed restrictions on Chinese ownership in other legislation. He emphasized the role of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) and argued that an arbitrary foreign ownership percentage could prevent non-Chinese, publicly-traded companies from mining domestically.
    - Leger Fernandez asked Westerman if he would support a CFIUS review of the Resolution Copper Mine. Westerman responded that the request is outside of the Committee’s jurisdiction and that CFIUS is already looking at instances of Chinese ownership. He added that Rio Tinto has been operating in the U.S. for a long time, and that the Resolution Copper Project began long before it was discussed in Congress.
  - Rep. **Russ Fulcher** (R-ID-01) opposed the amendment. He emphasized that China has a monopoly over critical mineral supply chains and the U.S. must act to disrupt its supply chain reliance.
  - Rep. **Jeff Hurd** (R-CO-03) opposed the amendment due to its proposed 10 percent foreign ownership threshold. He contended that the amendment could inadvertently hurt mining companies with very little connection to FEOCs.
  - The amendment was not agreed to in a 17-19 vote.
- [Grijalva 03](#) - Mining projects are not eligible for expedited permitting as a “covered project” unless tribal governments have been engaged from the earliest stages of project development.
  - Reps. Huffman, **Adelita Grijalva** (D-AZ-07), and **Emily Randall** (D-WA-06) supported the amendment.
    - Grijalva cited the South32 Hermosa Project as evidence of FAST-41, allowing mining companies to circumvent tribal and community engagement requirements. Grijalva added that the

project has created unresolved issues around groundwater impacts, public health, and environmental reviews.

- Huffman underscored that requiring early engagement will ensure that tribal input is meaningfully incorporated into decisions.
  - Randall explained that fast-tracking the permitting process without meaningful tribal consultation undermines U.S. treaty obligations.
  - Westerman opposed the amendment. He argued that it would introduce vague requirements that could delay projects by increasing permitting uncertainty and creating additional opportunities for litigation. Westerman added that the amendment is unlikely to meaningfully improve the Tribal consultation process.
  - The amendment was not agreed to in a 17-20 vote.
- III. Final Vote on H.R. 1501: **Passed out of Committee on a vote of 21-16.**
- **Yeas:** Bentz; Begich; Collins; Crank; Downing; Ezell; Fulcher; Gosar; Hageman; Hunt; Hurd; Kennedy; Maloy; McClintock; McDowell; Stauber; Tiffany; Walberg; Webster; Westerman; Gray
  - **Nays:** Ansari; Dexter; Dingell; Elfreth; Grijalva; Hernandez; Hoyle; Huffman; Lee; Leger Fernandez; Magaziner; Min; Randall; Rivas; Soto; Stansbury
  - **No Vote:** Amodei; Boebert; Kiggans; Radewagen; Wittman; Brownley; Golden; Neguse

### **Critical Minerals Supply Chain Resiliency Act ([H.R. 5929](#))**

#### I. Member Toplines:

- Huffman and Randall opposed the bill.
  - Huffman argued that it would limit judicial review over the administration’s permitting decisions and “emergency” approvals. He criticized the administration’s use of DPA funds, alleging it has been used to direct funding toward politically connected companies while bypassing adequate transparency and competitive bidding requirements.
  - Randall echoed concerns that the administration was favoring politically connected companies, thereby undermining national security and public trust. Randall cited the Vulcan Elements deal as a key example, noting that **Donald Trump Jr.’s** firm, 1789 Capital, took an ownership stake in the company shortly before the federal government awarded it a \$620 million loan.
- Westerman supported the bill. He entered into the record a letter from the National Mining Association emphasizing that reforms like H.R. 5929 and H.R.1501 are necessary to provide companies with regulatory certainty and enable long-term investment.

#### II. Amendments to H.R.5929:

- [Westerman 067](#) - Makes technical clarifications to the bill’s language.
  - Westerman supported his amendment and explained that streamlining permitting under DPA is necessary to strengthen domestic industrial and

defense capabilities. He added that the amendment clarifies language to ensure that projects that receive support under DPA are eligible for FAST-41 expedited permitting.

- The amendment was agreed to by voice vote.
- [Grijalva 01](#) - Adds renewable energy projects to the list of eligible FAST-41 projects.
  - Grijalva and Huffman supported the amendment.
    - Grijalva stressed that renewable energy projects are better suited for FAST-41 treatment than large-scale extractive projects. She emphasized that FAST-41 must include stronger transparency, environmental safeguards, and meaningful public participation. Grijalva cited the South32 Hermosa Project's impact on the local community's water supply as an example that expedited processes should not allow projects to bypass critical environmental review.
    - Huffman agreed that the administration is using fast-tracked "emergency" permitting processes to approve environmentally damaging projects while simultaneously blocking renewable energy development.
  - Westerman opposed the amendment, noting it would shift the bill away from its focus on domestic mining and mineral supply chains. He added that renewable energy projects are already eligible for streamlined permitting under the existing FAST-41 framework.
  - The amendment was not agreed to in a 16-21 vote

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- The amendment was not agreed to in a 16-21 vote.

III. Final Vote on H.R. 5929: **Passed out of Committee by Voice Vote**

### **Albuquerque Indian School Act of 2025 ([H.R.6162](#))**

I. Member Toplines:

- Stansbury stressed her support for the bill, explaining it would transfer nearly 10 acres of land in Albuquerque into a trust for the 19 Pueblo tribes that govern the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Stansbury explained that the bill will cement the center's role as a hub for cultural, educational, and economic development, while reinforcing tribal self-determination and community leadership.
- Leger Fernandez supported H.R.6162.

II. Relevant Amendments to H.R.6162:

- [Stansbury 071](#) - Adds transfer of jurisdiction procedures.
- The amendment was approved by unanimous consent.

III. Final Vote on H.R.6162: **Passed out of Committee by Unanimous Consent**

### **Downwinder Commemoration Act of 2025 ([H.R.4290](#))**

I. Relevant Member Toplines:

- Stansbury supported H.R.4290 and explained that the bill recognizes the lasting harm caused to communities near the Trinity nuclear test site in New Mexico, where fallout led to generations of cancer and disease. She explained that the bill serves as a formal acknowledgment of both the suffering and resilience of affected communities, while reinforcing the federal government's responsibility to support those impacted.
- Leger Fernandez supported H.R.4290.

II. Relevant Amendments to H.R.4290:

- [Neguse 213](#) - Provides additional definitions to the bill.
- The amendment was approved by unanimous consent.

III. Final Vote on H.R.4290: **Passed out of Committee by Unanimous Consent**

### **Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025 ([H.R.3756](#))**

I. Relevant Member Toplines:

- Magaziner argued the bill would help combat illegal international fishing that undermines U.S. fishermen. He highlighted that the bill would strengthen enforcement by blacklisting offending vessels from U.S. ports and waters, enhancing the capabilities of the United States Coast Guard, and directing the President to impose sanctions on groups engaged in illegal fishing.

- II. Relevant Amendments to H.R.3756:
  - [Westerman 068](#) - Clarifies definitions
  - The amendment was approved by unanimous consent.
- III. Final Vote on H.R.3756: **Passed out of Committee by Unanimous Consent**

#### **American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act of 2026 ([H.R.7618](#))**

- I. Relevant Member Toplines:
  - Magaziner expressed support for H.R.7618. He highlighted its role in preserving historic battlefields and strengthening national unity and patriotism.
- II. Relevant Amendments to H.R.7618:
  - [Kiggans 143](#): Clarifies the process for considering sites.
  - The amendment was approved by unanimous consent.
- IV. Final Vote on H.R.7618: **Passed out of Committee by Unanimous Consent**

#### **Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act ([H.R.1687](#))**

- I. Relevant Amendments to H.R.1687:
  - [Fulcher 01](#): Changes the percentages of nominated parcels offered for lease sale.
  - The amendment was approved by unanimous consent.
- II. Final Vote on H.R.1687: **Passed out of Committee by Unanimous Consent**

#### **Crystal Reservoir Conveyance Act of 2025 ([H.R.5911](#))**

- I. Relevant Amendments to H.R.5911:
  - [Hurd ANS](#): Clarifies the bill's definitions
  - The amendment was approved by unanimous consent.
- II. Final Vote on H.R.5911: **Passed out of Committee by Unanimous Consent**