



Committee: House Energy & Commerce Environment Subcommittee

Event: [Markup](#)

Date: July 14, 2026

Executive Summary:

On July 14, 2026, the House Energy & Commerce Environment Subcommittee hosted a markup of the following bills of relevance:

- Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) of 2025 ([H.R. 2140](#));
- Battery Recycling for America's Competitive Economy (BRACE) Act ([H.R. 9615](#));
- Environmental Monitoring and Remediation Technology Assessment Initiative (EMRTAI) Act of 2026 ([H.R. 9616](#)); and
- Coordinating and Harnessing America's Recovery of Minerals (CHARM) Act ([H.R. 9617](#)).

All bills passed out of the Subcommittee by voice vote with limited debate.

Member Toplines:¹

[Subcommittee Chair Gary Palmer \(R-AL-06\)](#): Palmer provided background on the bills, which he emphasized as largely bipartisan.

Subcommittee Ranking Member Paul Tonko (D-NY-20): Tonko expressed support for the BRACE, CHARM, and EMRTAI Acts, and the general need to responsibly "unlock" domestic critical minerals. He attested to the merits of the other bills as well, noting that DERA is a popular and effective program that facilitates the retirement of polluting diesel engines.

Full Committee Chair Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02): Guthrie emphasized that five of the seven bills were bipartisan and that staff were still working on the BRACE Act to make it bipartisan ahead of a full Committee markup. He also shared that staff are working on a few other bills ahead of another markup. Guthrie emphasized the value of the BRACE, EMRTAI, and CHARM bills in providing creative solutions to onshoring domestic critical mineral supply. He noted that the other bills, including DERA and EMRTAI, modernize the *Clean Air Act* while still protecting the environment.

[Full Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone \(D-NJ-06\)](#): Pallone asserted that expanding domestic critical mineral recycling and recovery is essential to bolstering U.S. supply chains, supporting clean energy technologies, and reducing dependence on foreign adversaries. He shared that the BRACE Act has been amended to address safety concerns while maintaining protections for the environment and public health. He noted that the EMRTAI bill is bipartisan

¹ The opening remarks from Full Committee Chairman Guthrie, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Tonko were unavailable at the time of this memo's distribution.

and will facilitate mineral recovery during superfund site cleanup. He attested to the value of CHARM and DERA as well.

Legislation Considered:

DERA of 2025 ([H.R. 2140](#))

- Rep. **Nick Langworthy** (R-NY-23) stated that DERA helps communities replace or upgrade older diesel-powered buses, trucks, and heavy equipment with newer, more efficient models through competitive grants and rebates. He underscored that DERA supports domestic manufacturing by creating demand for innovative technology, citing Cummins' engines manufacturing footprint in his district.
- Rep. **Raul Ruiz** (D-CA-25) attested to the impact of air pollution on public health and expressed his support for DERA reauthorization.
- **The bill was adopted and forwarded to the full committee by voice vote.**

BRACE Act ([H.R. 9615](#))

- Rep. **Mariannette Miller-Meeks** (R-IA-01) spoke in favor of her bill, noting that demand for lithium-ion batteries has grown exponentially in the past few years. She reported that used batteries are an opportunity to recover critical minerals, including nickel, cobalt, and lithium, but are currently exported to China due to current statute under the *Resource Conservation & Recovery Act*, which predates the use of lithium-ion batteries.
 - She reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that they would develop a universal waste standard for lithium-ion batteries in 2023, but the deadline has drifted, and emphasized that the current rules are cost prohibitive to lithium-ion battery recycling.
 - Miller-Meeks explained that her bill would allow destination waste facilities to store lithium-ion batteries prior to recycling, minimizing costs, and would also clarify the 1996 *Mercury-Containing & Rechargeable Battery Act*.
- Miller-Meeks introduced her amendment in the nature of the substitute, which would direct the EPA to finalize a universal waste standard for lithium-ion batteries no later than 18 months from the enactment of the bill.
 - Rep. **Rob Menendez** (D-NJ-08) expressed his support for the amendment, noting that it will provide support for landfills, recyclers, and protect the safety of workers.
 - The amendment was adopted by voice vote.
- **The bill was adopted and forwarded to the full committee by voice vote.**

EMRTAI Act of 2026 ([H.R. 9616](#))

- Palmer noted that cutting-edge technologies exist to harness rare earth minerals and other critical minerals from some of the most contaminated, legacy mines. He explained that the bill authorizes the program, expands its covered sites, and facilitates a mineral identification and recovery process, as well as further remediation efforts.
- Reps. **Greg Landsman** (D-OH-01) and **Darren Soto** (D-FL-09) reiterated the importance of mineral recovery and recycling and expressed their support for the bill. Soto noted that clean energy technologies are particularly critical mineral dependent.
- **The bill was adopted and forwarded to the full committee by voice vote.**

CHARM Act ([H.R. 9617](#))

- Palmer and Tonko spoke in favor of the bill, emphasizing that establishing secure domestic critical mineral supply chains is crucial, particularly as the U.S. moves to decouple from China and other foreign rivals. They both attested to the EPA's ongoing related regulatory and recycling efforts. Palmer elaborated that the bill directs the EPA to collaborate with other agencies to design and implement a critical mineral recovery strategy, with attention given to potential legal, technical, or other barriers; to identify nontraditional, domestic critical mineral sources; and consider recovery mechanisms that minimize health and environmental risk.
- **The bill was adopted and forwarded to the full committee by voice vote.**