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Kevin M. Dempsey
President and Chief Executive Officer

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Pete Stauber
House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral
Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Yassamin Ansari
House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral
Resources
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Stauber and Ranking Member Ansari:

On behalf of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), I write to express appreciation for your holding a legislative hearing in the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources on several bills addressing our nation's need to secure access to and development of critical minerals essential for our nation's continued economic growth and vitality. In particular, AISI expresses our endorsement of H.R. 7126, the "Securing Essential and Critical U.S. Resources and Elements (SECURE) Minerals Act of 2026," which is part of the agenda for this hearing.

AISI serves as the voice of the American steel industry in the public policy arena and advances the case for steel in the marketplace as the preferred material of choice. AISI's membership is comprised of integrated and electric arc furnace (EAF) steelmakers, steel pipe and tube manufacturers and steel processors and fabricators, reflecting the production and distribution of both carbon and stainless steels. These steels are critical to America's national and economic security, including roads and bridges, buildings, the electrical grid, cars and trucks and all energy technologies. AISI also represents associate member companies who are suppliers to or customers of the steel industry.

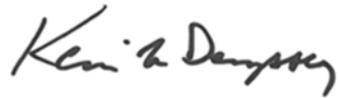
The American steel industry faces challenges due to difficulties associated with a lack of consistent, affordable access to the critical minerals that are essential for steel production. As a result, supplies of these critical minerals are limited thereby increasing costs and limiting the competitiveness of American steel producers. For example, stainless steel production relies upon affordable and consistent access to nickel at a time when Indonesia and China control much of the world's nickel resources. Similarly, Russia and China are the world's largest producers of vanadium and limit access to this mineral that is needed to create specialty alloys.

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AISI endorses the SECURE Minerals Act as common sense, bipartisan and bicameral legislation that recognizes the important role that critical minerals play in supporting American manufacturing and good jobs. This legislation will strengthen the critical minerals supply chain and decrease reliance on China and Russia. The bill specifically would create a federal Strategic Resilience Reserve — a government corporation modeled after the Federal Reserve — that would be empowered to acquire and stockpile critical minerals and other assets. It also focuses on increasing and maintaining access to critical minerals through increased domestic recycling efforts.

AISI applauds Reps. Moolenaar and Wittman, along with Sens. Shaheen and Young, for their leadership on this important issue. The SECURE Minerals Act will ensure and support continued, long-term efforts by the U.S. government to secure a steady supply of and access to critical minerals. We commend the Subcommittee for holding a hearing on the legislation and recommend its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Dempsey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin M. Dempsey
President and Chief Executive Officer