



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

February 20, 2018

The Honorable Mary Neumayr  
Chief of Staff  
Council on Environmental Quality  
730 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. Neumayr:

I write to request that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) designate the Round Top Rare Earths/Multi-Metal Mining Project a "High Priority Infrastructure Project" under the authority granted to the nation's governors by President Trump's January 24, 2017 "*Executive Order Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects.*"

Round Top hosts the 17 rare earth elements, including those that are essential to all major U.S. defense system platforms, such as precision-guided missiles, radar, lasers, satellites, fighter jets and submarines. However, the United States is 100 percent dependent on foreign nations for its supply. Round Top also holds deposits of rare metals like uranium, beryllium and lithium, essential to nuclear weapons systems and energy applications. Strengthening the United States' supply of these Rare Earths will put our nation in a position to rely on domestic production, thus re-shoring our advanced technology manufacturing, and in turn, saving billions by not depending on foreign countries such as China.

Given the United States' deep dependence on foreign-sourced Rare Earths as well as other critical metals and minerals that will be produced by the Round Top project, I urge that the CEQ act to designate Round Top a "high priority" infrastructure project. As Governor of Texas, I welcome this opportunity to put Texas at the forefront of a renaissance in Rare Earth resource development that will make America stronger economically and ensure our U.S. military remains second to none.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott  
Governor

Enclosures

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Bush George



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OOG/CCQM

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE  
GEORGE P. BUSH, COMMISSIONER

cc: lead

December 12, 2017

Governor Greg Abbott  
Office of the Governor  
State Insurance Building  
1100 San Jacinto  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Governor Abbott:

I write to urge you to submit the Round Top mining project for designation as a "high priority infrastructure project." The Trump Administration's *Executive Order Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects* requires such a request to originate from the Office of the Governor.

In the case of Rare Earths, critical elements in all major U.S. defense platforms, as well as high tech applications in the U.S. are 100% import-dependent for its supply. This is a significant national security issue which needs to be rectified immediately.

The timely development of the Round Top project would put Texas at the forefront of the critical metals supply chain with a projected 150-year mine life providing a range of rare metals. Round Top is a critical metals "strategic reserve," and the project has the potential to be a significant boon economically to the state of Texas and the Permanent School Fund.

Given the importance of this project and its potential impact to the state of Texas and the country, I ask that you submit the Round Top project to the White House Council on Environmental Quality for consideration as a "high priority infrastructure project." For additional information, please contact Kaleb Bennett, Assistant Director of Governmental Relations, at 512-463-5363.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of George P. Bush

GEORGE P. BUSH  
Commissioner, General Land Office

WILL HURD  
23RD DISTRICT, TEXAS

Hurd Will  
201712050426



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WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4511

17721 ROGERS RANCH PARKWAY  
SUITE 120  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78258  
(210) 921-3130

TEXAS A&M SAN ANTONIO PATRIOTS' CASA  
ONE UNIVERSITY WAY, SUITE 212E & 212F  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78224  
(210) 784-5023

1104 WEST 10TH  
DEL RIO, TX 78840  
(830) 422-2040

100 MONROE STREETS  
EAGLE PASS, TX 78852  
(210) 238-4296

124 SOUTH HORIZON  
SOCORRO, TX 79927  
(915) 235-0421

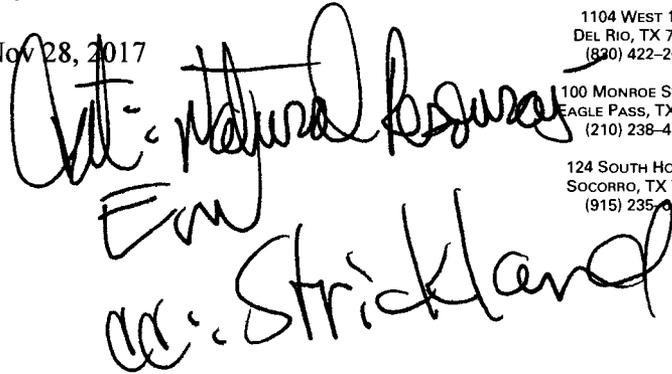
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4323**

Nov 28, 2017

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COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY  
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

Governor Greg Abbott  
Office of the Governor  
State Insurance Building  
1100 San Jacinto  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Governor Abbott,

On January 24, 2017, President Trump signed an Executive Order, "expediting environmental reviews and approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects." Recently, it came to my attention that Texas Mineral Resources, a company located in Texas' 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional district, is developing the Round Top Heavy Rare Earth Project, which may meet the criteria for designation as a "high priority" infrastructure project outlined in President Trump's Executive Order.

To date, the United States is 100% dependent on foreign nations for rare earths with most originating from China. Rare earth production is essential to our military's weapons platform. Every DoD platform requires rare earths, especially the heavy rare earths which presently can only be mined in China. A new U.S. source of high-quality critical Rare Earths will meet key policy goals related to economic development, competitiveness and job creation in the context of the Trump Administration's Infrastructure Program.

Expediting the Round Top Project would serve as a critical catalyst for the United States to gain ground in the race to mine rare earths. Studies have indicated that the global rare earth metals market will have an average annual compounded growth rate of 13.67% by 2021. The Round Top Project is home to rare earths including, uranium, lithium, scandium, and beryllium to name a few. Strengthening the United States' supply of these rare earths will put our nation in a position to rely on domestic production and save billions by not depending on foreign countries such as China and Bolivia.

Given the strategic nature of this project to both the United States and Texas, I ask that you strongly consider submitting the Round Top project to the White House Council on Environmental Quality for consideration as a "high priority" infrastructure project. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 202-225-4511.

Sincerely,  


WILL HURD  
Member of Congress