

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9616

To establish a program for the recovery of critical materials from
contaminated sites, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2026

Mr. PFLUGER (for himself and Mr. LANDSMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a program for the recovery of critical materials
from contaminated sites, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Environmental Moni-
5 toring and Remediation Technology Assessment Initiative
6 Authorization Act of 2026” or the “EMRTAI Authoriza-
7 tion Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION AND CRITICAL MA-**
2 **TERIAL RECOVERY PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of the En-
4 vironmental Protection Agency shall carry out a program
5 to investigate, evaluate, and support processes, methods,
6 and systems which may be utilized in—

7 (1) the identification of sources of critical mate-
8 rials at contaminated sites, including contaminated
9 media and solid waste sources at such sites; and

10 (2) the recovery of such critical materials from
11 such sites.

12 (b) ASSISTANCE.—In carrying out the program under
13 subsection (a), the Administrator may provide assistance,
14 including by entering into contracts and cooperative agree-
15 ments and making awards, to persons, State, local, and
16 Tribal government entities, and nonprofit organizations.

17 (c) LIMITATION.—The Administrator may not, under
18 such program, provide assistance—

19 (1) in the aggregate, in an amount that exceeds
20 \$10,000,000 in any fiscal year; or

21 (2) to any person, State, local, or Tribal gov-
22 ernment entity, or nonprofit organization, in an
23 amount that exceeds \$3,000,000.

24 (d) EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS.—The Adminis-
25 trator shall establish a system for evaluating applications

1 for assistance provided under subsection (b) that includes
2 the following criteria:

3 (1) The extent to which the assistance furthers
4 the identification of nontraditional, domestic sources
5 of critical materials at contaminated sites pursuant
6 to subsection (a).

7 (2) The extent to which the assistance advances
8 processes, methods, and systems for—

9 (A) recovering critical materials from
10 sources at contaminated sites that may be iden-
11 tified pursuant to subsection (a); and

12 (B) monitoring environmental contamina-
13 tion and remediation of such contaminated sites
14 in the recovery of such critical materials.

15 (3) The extent to which the assistance strength-
16 ens national security through the development of do-
17 mestic critical material supply chains.

18 (4) The extent to which the assistance supports
19 remediation of one or more contaminated sites, espe-
20 cially such sites that are on the National Priorities
21 List.

22 (5) The extent to which the assistance protects
23 human health and the environment.

24 (e) CRITICAL MATERIAL DEFINED.—In this section,
25 the term “critical material” has the meaning given such

1 term in section 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30
2 U.S.C. 1606(a)).

3 (f) SUNSET.—The program under subsection (a)
4 shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date
5 of enactment of this section.

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