

The Rundown

By: CLEARPATH
ACTION



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ClearPath Action Rundown
May 15th, 2026

Happy Friday!

1. Reimagining America's infrastructure: low-carbon cement



American companies are leading the charge to reimagine cement. ClearPath Action produced a short video featuring Brimstone CEO Cody Finke and Rep. Max Miller (R-OH) that highlights the need and opportunity for cement and concrete innovation.

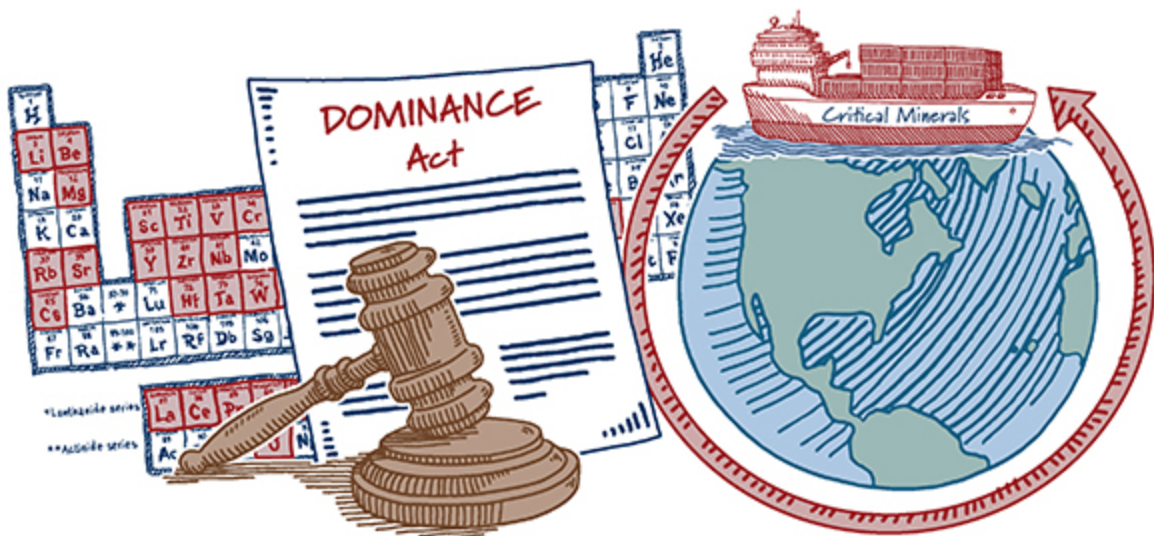
A few things worth knowing:

- **The import problem is real and growing.** America has become more reliant on foreign cement imports since 2021, growing from 15% to nearly 25% today.
- **The AI buildout is here.** With data centers increasing across the country to support AI infrastructure, domestic cement and concrete production have never been more critical.
- **Federal investment is working, but more is needed.** Brimstone's CEO built the company with the support of two DOE grants. Bipartisan policies like IMPACT 2.0 and CAIA cut red tape and modernize procurement, so state Departments of Transportation (DOTs) can buy innovative, America-made products.

What's Clear: Including **IMPACT 2.0** and **CAIA** in the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization bill can scale American innovators like Brimstone to reduce import reliance, lower costs and cut emissions.

Plug in: Watch the video [here](#).

2. DOMINANCE Act unanimously passes the House Foreign Affairs Committee



Breaking China's grip on critical mineral supply chains requires durable law. This week, the House Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously advanced the **Developing Overseas Mineral Investments and New Allied Networks for Critical Energies (DOMINANCE) Act** by a vote of 45–0.

The bill will:

- Authorize the State Department to establish bilateral “Energy Security Pacts” with partner countries, enabling long-term agreements to strengthen shared energy and economic security, including diversification of critical mineral and energy supply chains and countering economic coercion;
- Establish a Bureau of Energy Security and Diplomacy at the State Department to lead the development and implementation of U.S. international energy and critical mineral policies, and protect U.S. energy and economic security; and
- Codify the Forum on Resource Geostrategic Engagement (FORGE) to lock in allied coordination on critical minerals.

What's clear: A 45-0 vote confirms that outcompeting China on energy and minerals is not a partisan issue. Giving partner nations a credible alternative to Beijing starts with policy stability, and this bill delivers it.

What's next: Sens. Pete Ricketts (R-NE) and Chris Coons (D-DE) have also introduced legislation, the [Energy Security Pacts Act](#), to achieve similar goals. These bipartisan, bicameral efforts show that all of Congress is working to establish U.S. critical minerals dominance.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's report, [Energy Financing Power: America vs. China](#), and the [blog](#) by Jake Kincer and Nick Lombardo on why Energy Security Pacts must be central to U.S. foreign policy.

3. Fervo goes public



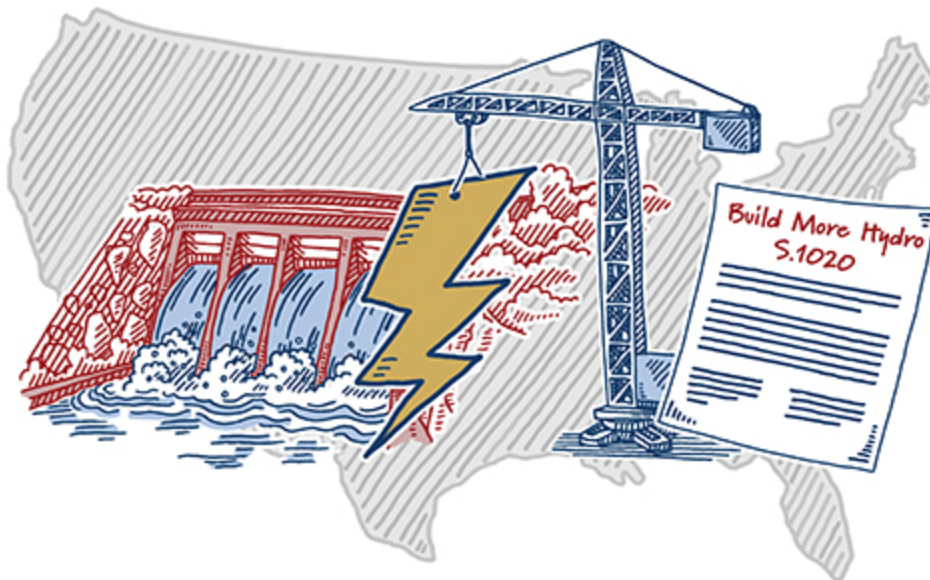
Fervo Energy (Nasdaq: FRVO), a Houston-based enhanced geothermal power developer, [went public](#) this week, raising \$1.89 billion in capital in what has been called the “largest-ever clean energy IPO.” Shares [jumped 35%](#) in its first day of trading, pushing the company’s valuation north of \$10 billion.

Why it matters: [Fervo](#) is the first next-gen geothermal company to go public. This closely watched IPO is a validator for the company and its ability to prove the technology at scale. The IPO follows several successful fundraising rounds and continued progress on the company’s Cape Station project.

Plug in: Private capital is gravitating towards reliable, clean energy like nuclear and geothermal. Nuclear startup **X-energy** went public last month with similar results. Both companies have benefited from federal R&D investments signed by President Trump in the Energy Act of 2020.

What's next: Congress has the opportunity to accelerate these types of energy breakthroughs by reauthorizing the Energy Act of 2020, which has since expired, before the end of this year.

4. Trump signs "Build More Hydro" into law



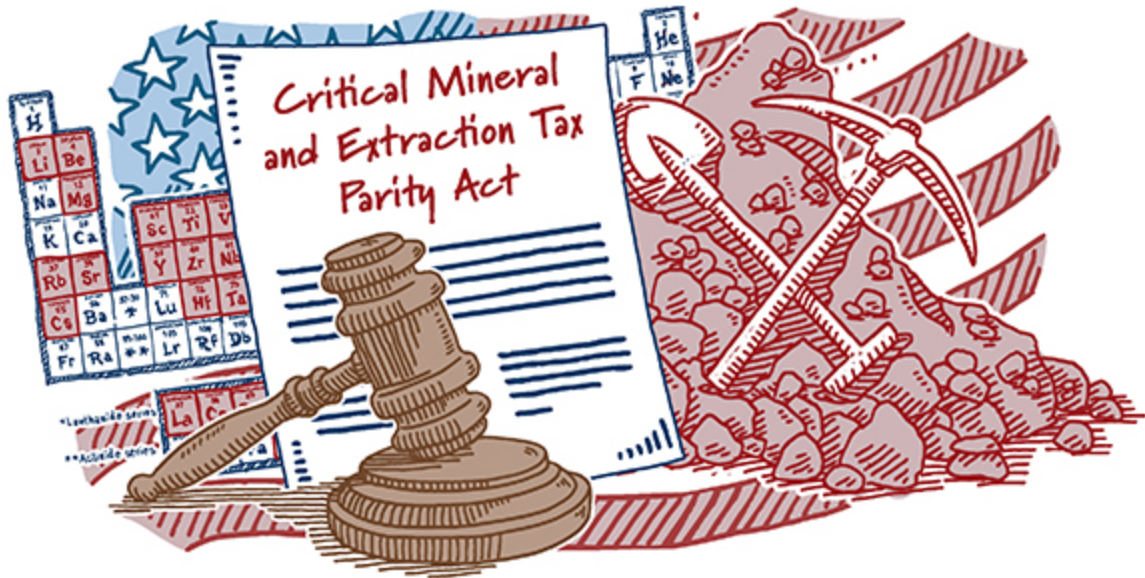
Cutting red tape to build more of what already works is exactly how America meets rising electricity demand. President Trump **signed** S. 1020, the "Build More Hydro" Act, into law, extending construction deadlines for hydropower projects licensed before March 2020 by up to six years. The bill, sponsored by Sens. Steve Daines (R-MT) and John Fetterman (D-PA), passed the Senate by unanimous consent and cleared the House 394-14.

The new law stands to:

- Unlock more than three dozen stalled hydropower projects across 15 states;
- Give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) authority to grant construction extensions in two-year increments, up to six years;
- Expand affordable, dispatchable domestic generation without new mandates or subsidies; and
- Add megawatts to a grid already straining under surging electricity demand.

What's clear: America owns 92,000 dams and uses only 3% of them for electricity. Removing deadline barriers for already-licensed projects will let America preserve the existing hydropower fleet to provide grid reliability and meet rising demand.

5. Incentivizing America's critical minerals supply chain



America can lead in critical minerals and smart tax incentives can help the private sector unlock them. Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT) **introduced** the Critical Mineral and Extraction Tax Parity Act to align the Advanced Manufacturing Production Tax Credit (45X) with the U.S. Geological Survey's **2025 critical minerals list**, closing a gap that left key minerals without an incentive.

The bill would:

- Add 10 critical minerals, including uranium, copper, silicon and phosphate, as eligible for the 45X credit; and
- Clarify that domestic extraction costs qualify for the credit, including limited eligibility for minerals not yet mined at a commercial scale in the U.S.

What's clear: Tax incentives that improve project economics for domestic mining will draw private capital into supply chains China has long sought to control. This bill is a straightforward fix – align the incentive to address the threat to secure American supply chains.

Plug in: Read more about the Critical Mineral and Extraction Tax Parity Act [here](#).

6. DOE invests in U.S. manufacturing competitiveness



DOE's Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI) **announced** \$52 million for 20 projects across 15 states to fund industrial RD&D. The awards will accelerate technology development to help American manufacturers reduce energy costs, achieve energy and supply chain security and promote manufacturing competitiveness.

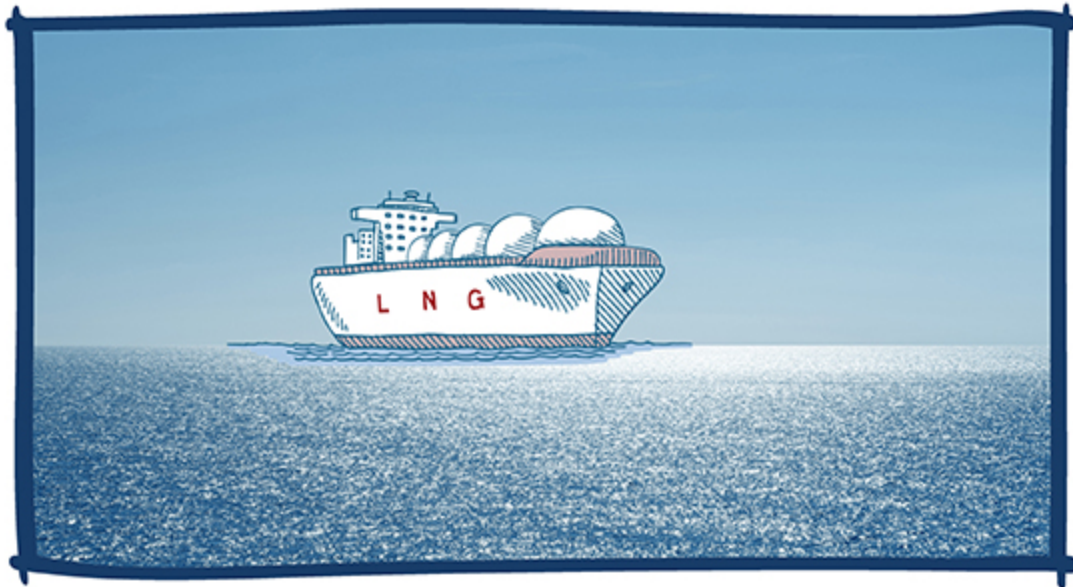
Project highlights include:

- **Markle, Indiana:** \$3 million to Sortera Technologies and partners, including Purdue, Penn State and MIT. The award will fund the use of AI and advanced processing to improve the supply of high-value steel scrap.
- **Omaha, Nebraska:** \$2.4 million to Bluestem Biosciences to optimize and scale their fermentation technology that transforms biomass into chemicals while reducing energy use by 40%.
- **Corvallis, Oregon:** \$1.8 million to Oregon State University and partners Albemarle and Amrize to use lithium in concrete mixtures to increase the use of domestic resources, reduce import reliance and improve competitiveness.

What's clear: CMEI's awards advance state-of-the-art technologies to help American manufacturers reduce cost, avoid import reliance and boost global competitiveness.

Plug in: Read this [blog](#) by Savvy Bowman and Rafae Ghani on the importance of DOE funding to advance industrial innovation and convert that into manufacturing leadership.

7. 101: America's LNG leadership



American energy dominance doesn't stop at the shoreline. The U.S. has been the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporter since 2022, and developers plan to more than double liquefaction capacity by 2029. ClearPath's LNG 101 explains how the technology works, why allies depend on it and what's needed to sustain U.S. leadership.

The 101:

- Breaks down the full LNG value chain, from domestic production fields to overseas end use;
- Details how U.S. LNG has strengthened energy security for allies in Europe and Asia, including reducing European dependence on Russian gas;
- Explains how American LNG can lower global emissions; and
- Outlines the permitting and infrastructure conditions needed to keep export capacity growing.

What's clear: American LNG is a durable tool for energy dominance and global emissions reduction. Keeping permitting efficient is how the U.S. stays the supplier the world relies on.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's new [LNG 101](#).

8. 250 years of American energy innovation



As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, ClearPath is **highlighting** America's innovation story. From the earliest discoveries in electricity and steam power to modern nuclear, natural gas, advanced grid technologies and agriculture, American innovators have consistently pushed the boundaries of what's possible.

- **1892** - First geothermal district heating system in Boise, Idaho
- **1922** - First geothermal power plant by John D. Grant
- **1960** - First commercial-scale geothermal plant at The Geysers in California began operation
- **1991** - The world's **first magma exploratory well** was drilled in the Sierra Nevada Mountains to a depth of 7,588 feet.
- **2013** - First enhanced geothermal system (EGS) supplies electricity to the grid, Ormat's Desert Peak 2 project in Nevada.

What's clear: Next-generation geothermal is one of America's most powerful untapped energy resources, with private investment and advanced drilling already proving it can scale.

9. Political Climate: Governors vs. Rising Power Bills



ClearPath has partnered with Political Climate, Washington's most influential energy policy podcast.

In the latest episode, hosts Julia Pyper, Brandon Hurlbut and Neil Chatterjee break down why energy affordability has become one of the hottest political issues heading into the 2026 midterms and what governors are doing about it.

Plug in: Listen [here](#).

10. The Circuit



ClearPath CEO [Jeremy Harrell](#) spoke on energy policy in the era of AI and data center demand growth at Evercore's ISI DC Client Day.

ClearPath Head of Policy [Lisa Epifani](#) moderated a fireside chat with Rep. Julie Fedorchak (R-ND) at the Great American Grid dinner hosted by JPMorgan Chase, RMI and ClearPath on the urgent need for bipartisan action to modernize America's transmission infrastructure – from streamlining permitting to unlocking grid-enhancing technologies.



11. ICYMI

- The Bureau of Land Management [transferred](#) 1.4 million acres along the Dalton Utility Corridor to the State of Alaska. This move allows the state to determine future critical minerals development in the Ambler Mining District, one of the largest undeveloped copper-zinc belts in the world.
- DOE's Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF) is in [advanced stages](#) of structuring loan guarantees for long-lead components, including reactor

vessels and steam generators, to support up to 10 AP1000 reactors under development by a coalition of U.S. utilities.

- DOE's EDF also updated its Title 17 [guidance to prioritize](#) nuclear, oil, natural gas and grid-enhancing technologies, with funding extended through fiscal year 2028.
- [Nick Loris of C3 Solutions spoke with Heatmap](#) about what conservatives actually want from permitting reform and how the data center boom fits into the case for building more energy infrastructure faster.
- DOE will [launch](#) a critical minerals center of excellence in Albany, Oregon, designed to collaborate with industry to strengthen domestic supply chains and reduce reliance on foreign sources.
- [Endurance Energy](#), a Seattle-based subsea geothermal startup, [signed](#) an MOU with the island nation of Tonga for a [groundbreaking geothermal test project](#).



ClearPath believes America must lead the world in innovation over regulation... markets over mandates...providing affordable, reliable, clean energy.

That's all from us. Thanks for reading and have a great weekend!

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