



EARTH MAPPING RESOURCES INITIATIVE (EARTH MRI) REAUTHORIZATION ACT (S. 4870)

DATE INTRODUCED:

06/23/2026

WHAT:

From critical minerals and hydrogen to next-generation geothermal energy, modern subsurface data is essential to strengthening domestic supply chains, accelerating clean energy deployment and improving U.S. energy security.

The Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) Reauthorization Act would reauthorize the U.S. Geological Survey's [Earth MRI program](#), which collects the foundational geologic data needed to identify critical minerals, unlock energy potential and support responsible domestic resource development.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Reauthorize the USGS Earth MRI program for an additional five years, through 2031;
- Support modern geologic mapping, geophysical surveys and geochemical characterization to identify domestic critical mineral resources; and
- Improve characterization of broader subsurface assets, including geothermal potential and natural hydrogen.

WHY IT MATTERS:

High-quality subsurface data is foundational to American resource security and energy innovation. Developers, state agencies, researchers and federal agencies need accurate geologic information to identify critical mineral deposits, assess geothermal and hydrogen potential, reduce exploration risk, lower costs and move projects from concept to deployment faster.

[Economic analysis](#) by the American Geosciences Institute found that every dollar invested in federal geologic mapping can generate \$23-\$35 in benefits such as time and cost savings. Reauthorizing Earth MRI is a high-impact, bipartisan step to strengthen American mineral security and expand clean energy resource potential.

WHAT'S NEXT:

Current Earth MRI funding is set to expire at the end of FY26. The Earth MRI Reauthorization Act would reauthorize an effective program that supports American competitiveness, energy security and domestic resource development.

SPONSOR:

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

CO-SPONSOR:

Sen. John Hickenlooper (D-CO)

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