

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C. Street NW.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum,

Congratulations on your confirmation as Secretary of Interior. We know many pressing concerns await you as you begin your new role. We write with urgency to request that you immediately restore potash and add phosphate to the current (2022) and upcoming (2025) U.S. Geological Survey's Department of the Interior (DOI) List of Critical Minerals.

As you are aware, under the law defining critical minerals, three criteria must be met: a mineral must be essential to the economic or national security of the U.S., its supply chain must be vulnerable to disruption, and the mineral must serve an essential function in the manufacturing of a product. Both potash and phosphate fulfill these criteria, and their significance for U.S. national security, food security, and American farmers is especially critical, particularly given recent global events that have affected fertilizer markets and highlighted the risks of disruptions.

The U.S. depends on imports for approximately 85 percent of its potash needs, primarily sourcing it from Canada. Worldwide, only 14 countries produce potash, with Belarus and Russia accounting for nearly 40 percent of total production. The United States must address the growing risks to this supply chain, including a return to domestic production of potash as quickly as possible. The importance of potash to the nation's economic and national security was recognized in 2018 when DOI included potash on its list of 35 critical minerals. However, under the previous administration, the 2022 update removed potash from the list—a decision that clearly warrants reconsideration. We appreciate President Trump's support for reversing this in his March 20, 2025, executive order.

In contrast to potash, phosphate is more abundant in the U.S. Even so, we are heavily reliant on imports. With China and Russia—responsible for 25 percent and 14 percent of global phosphate exports, respectively—imposing export controls, the market remains highly vulnerable to supply disruptions. Adding phosphate to the U.S. Critical Minerals List would be an important step in strengthening domestic fertilizer manufacturing, stabilizing and securing this critical supply chain.

At the very heart of this issue are the American farmers who work tirelessly to feed Americans and much of the world. Fertilizers containing potash and phosphate are essential to maintaining soil fertility, improving crop yields, and ensuring consistent food production. Without access to a stable and affordable supply of these minerals, farmers face higher costs, reduced yields, and increased uncertainty—challenges that threaten their livelihoods and the food security of millions of American families.

In closing, we again ask you to take a decisive step toward securing our future by adding potash and phosphate to the U.S. Critical Minerals List. Doing so will send a powerful message that the United States is serious about safeguarding the nation's food supply.

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



John Boozman
United States Senator



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Russ Fulcher
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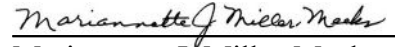
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Mariannette J. Miller-Meeks,
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Thom Tillis
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Brad Finstad
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Randy Feenstra
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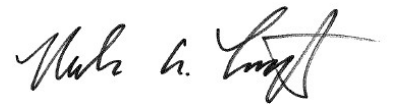
James C. Justice
United States Senator



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



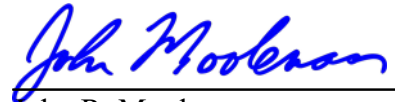
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United States Senator



Nicholas A. Langworthy
Member of Congress



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



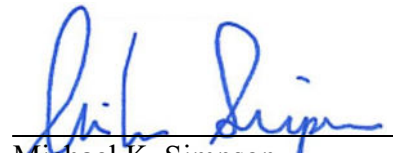
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Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
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James E. Risch
United States Senator



Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Zach Nunn
Member of Congress



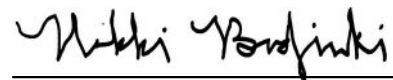
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