

WETSTONE

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Stauber
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

September 3, 2025

Chairman Westerman and Chairman Stauber,

Thank you for including H.R. 4018, a bill “To Unleash America’s Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources” Act, in today’s Natural Resources Committee’s legislative hearing. Wetstone strongly supports this legislation, a vital step toward strengthening U.S. critical mineral supply chains that power our energy future, economy, and national defense.

Wetstone is a U.S.-headquartered global leader in responsible offshore mineral exploration and development. America’s seafloor holds vast untapped minerals—cobalt, copper, nickel, manganese, and Rare Earth Elements—which are essential for energy technologies, industrial capacity, and defense systems. Yet broken regulations have stifled investment, innovation, and domestic capacity.

Our experience mapping and developing mineral reserves in allied nations' Exclusive Economic Zones has made it clear that the U.S. must act urgently if it is to play a leading role in this important new industry. China dominates mineral supply chains from mines to processing, and is investing heavily in seafloor development. With mineral demand soaring, America cannot delay building seafloor mineral exploration, collection, and processing capabilities.

H.R. 4018 offers a pragmatic path: modernized permitting and coordinated federal action to attract private investment, ensure technological leadership, and safeguard offshore environments. By passing this bill, Congress will empower U.S. companies like Wetstone to build secure, ethical, and environmentally responsible mineral supply chains for America, as we are doing for partner nations around the world.

We commend Reps. Ezell and Miller-Meeks for their leadership and urge swift passage of H.R. 4018 to position the U.S. as a global leader in offshore critical mineral development.

Sincerely,

Sahil Abbi
Chief Commercial Officer
Wetstone