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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

September 12, 2025

Dr. Sarah Ryker
Acting Director
United States Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr
Reston, VA 20192

Dear Acting Director Ryker,

I write to express my strong support for the inclusion of silicon and potash on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) draft 2025 List of Critical Minerals.¹ To better support American farmers and manufacturers, strengthen our domestic supply chains, and protect the livelihoods of hardworking families, I urge you to include these two resources on the final list.

Silicon and potash are, by any definition, critical minerals. Sufficient supply of both minerals is essential to the strength of American jobs, industry, and agriculture. Silicon is the foundation of semiconductors and electronics, which power everything from our smartphones and medical equipment to our cars and defense systems. Silicon's versatility and role in advanced manufacturing applies to a wide range of other essential industries as well, making it indispensable to both our economy and national security. Alarming, China currently produces 80% of the world's silicon materials, which is an unacceptable risk to key American industries.² Designating silicon as a critical mineral will facilitate expanded U.S. production and our advanced manufacturing capabilities, spur innovation, and create good-paying, high-demand jobs in communities like mine.

Potash is equally vital. Farmers in my district depend on potash fertilizer to grow the crops that feed families across the country. Yet, the United States produces less than 10% of the potash we need, resulting in a dangerous reliance on foreign nations, including China and Russia, to supply the remaining 90%.³ Including potash on the final list will help reduce our dependence on foreign nations, insulating our food supply and farm workers from global market disruptions and price volatility.

Critical minerals like silicon and potash are vital to our continued economic growth, supply chain resilience, and our ability to compete—and win—against China. As such, I urge you to include these critical resources in the finalized 2025 List of Critical Minerals.

Thank you for your leadership, and I look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress

¹ Federal Register | [2025 Draft List of Critical Minerals](#)

² USGS | [Silicon Commodity Summary](#)

³ USGS | [Potash Commodity Summary](#)