



External Affairs & Communications

Glenn S. Ruskin

Vice President

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Eric Swalwell  
407 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Swalwell:

On behalf of the American Chemical Society (ACS), I am pleased to endorse H.R. 4481, The Securing Energy Critical Elements and American Jobs Act of 2019. As you may know, the ACS represents 150,000 chemists and chemical engineers and was chartered by Congress in 1937 to provide scientific and policy advice to society and policy makers.

H.R.4481 addresses critical material challenges by focusing US resources on scientific solutions. By creating a strategic plan, boosting research, and improving government coordination, this legislation will leverage our nation's strengths, ensuring we have access to the elements we need to grow our economy and find solution to global challenges like climate change. Additionally, H.R.4481 formally authorizes a permanent critical materials program at the U.S. Department of Energy and builds on prior work to ensure support for researchers, industry, and policymakers.

Providing a robust and sustainable supply of critical materials is central to assuring the strength of the U.S. research enterprise, national security, and economic growth. A comprehensive plan is necessary as the global economy continues to grow, driving an increase in demand for many of these materials. The U.S. will continue to grapple with unequal global allocations of certain elements, as well as the safety and environmental hazards associated with extraction and processing. By prioritizing long-term research and development, H.R.4481 is a necessary step to meeting these challenges.

Ultimately, chemistry is central to guaranteeing the building blocks of our current and future economy, and I commend your leadership in this arena. We look forward to working with you to pass H.R.4481. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Carl Maxwell ([c\\_maxwell@acs.org](mailto:c_maxwell@acs.org)).

Sincerely,

Glenn S. Ruskin

Cc: The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
The Honorable Frank Lucas

American Chemical Society

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