



# STATE OF UTAH

SPENCER J. COX  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
84114-2220

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Feb. 16, 2022

The Honorable Deb Haaland  
Secretary  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

In meetings with you and other cabinet members at the recent convening of the National Governors Association, I emphasized the importance of the administration pursuing the domestic development of critical minerals, including on public lands. These minerals are important in a variety of industries, including renewable energy, and it would be inconsistent to advocate for advancement of renewable energy without pursuing our domestic supply of critical minerals.

I look forward to more conversations on that topic, though today I write specifically to request that the Department of Interior add copper to the U.S. Geological Survey's list of critical minerals.

I recognize the Department has discussed this topic in the past and that a variety of copper by-products are already on the list. However, I think there is merit in adding copper itself to the list and underscoring its vital role in our supply chain for a variety of copper intensive applications, including our clean energy economy.

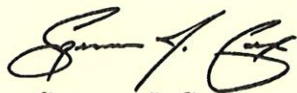
Most of Utah's copper has been and is currently mined at Kennecott's Bingham Canyon mine in the Oquirrh Mountains. The Bingham Canyon mine has produced over 21 million tons of copper since operations began in 1906.

Utah continues to expand upon its clean energy asset portfolio with significant deployments of solar farms and wind corridors, which require the expansion of transmissions lines and the associated needs for copper. And the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure over the coming years, particularly throughout the rural west, will increase this need.

And beyond Utah, the copper industry is a major contributor to U.S. economic and national security and is essential to nearly every facet of the U.S. economy, including construction, consumer products and the energy sector.

For all these reasons, I encourage you to include copper in the USGS list of critical minerals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer J. Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "S" and "C".

Spencer J. Cox  
Governor