

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 23, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C. Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum,

We write to thank you for your leadership in adding potash to the Department of the Interior's Draft 2025 Critical Minerals List. This is a significant and necessary step to safeguard America's agricultural base and national security. Potash is essential for maintaining soil fertility, achieving higher yields, enhancing crop quality, and improving disease resistance, which ensures the resilience of our food systems. We commend your recognition of its importance.

At the same time, we are concerned that phosphate, another foundational agricultural input, was not included in the draft list. Phosphate, like potash, is indispensable to global food production and U.S. agriculture. It has no substitutes in farming, and disruptions in supply have immediate and far-reaching consequences for American producers, food prices, and national security. Farmers across the country are already experiencing the impacts of market volatility and supply pressures tied to phosphate availability.

We believe the current U.S. Geological Survey methodology significantly underestimates the risks associated with phosphate. The framework appears to place too much emphasis on domestic geological abundance of phosphate rock, without fully accounting for the global supply chain realities, including:

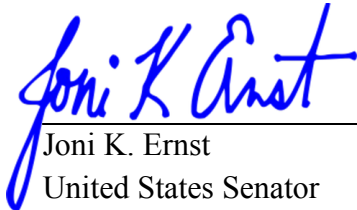
1. China is responsible for more than 40 percent of global phosphate fertilizer production and has repeatedly restricted exports of diammonium phosphate (DAP), monoammonium phosphate (MAP), and phosphoric acid. These actions have caused major price spikes and availability shocks, with Beijing demonstrating its willingness to use export controls for strategic leverage—creating ongoing volatility in global fertilizer markets.
2. A handful of countries hold most of the world's known phosphate rock reserves, which concentrates supply and leaves U.S. agriculture vulnerable to trade disruptions and policy shifts beyond our control. Addressing such concentration is consistent with the U.S. government's stated priority to reduce dependence on single-nation or limited-source mineral supplies.
3. By focusing narrowly on raw rock reserves, the current model ignores the fact that real bottlenecks lie in processing capacity and state-influenced producers willing to weaponize supply. U.S. farmers depend not on just the presence of phosphate rock but on the global availability of finished fertilizers like DAP, MAP, and phosphoric acid.

Given phosphate's central role in our economy and its clear vulnerability to supply disruptions, we strongly urge that it be immediately reexamined and added to the 2025 Critical Minerals List. You have the authority to make this designation, and doing so would reflect both the essentiality of phosphate in

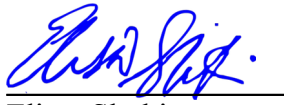
American food production and the systemic risks our farmers face from market disruptions created by the concentrated foreign supply.

We thank you again for your leadership on this matter and look forward to working together to ensure that America's critical minerals policy is both comprehensive, forward-looking, and responsive to the needs of U.S. farmers.

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

John Hoeven
United States Senator

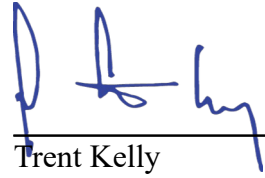
Brad Finstad
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall M.D.
United States Senator

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



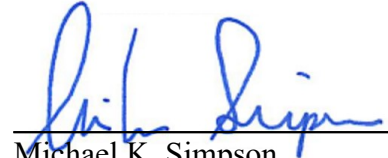
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Trent Kelly
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Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Michael K. Simpson
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Christopher A. Coons
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Randy Feenstra
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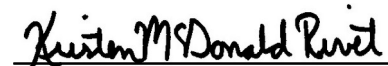
Rick Scott
United States Senator



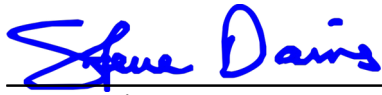
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James C. Justice
United States Senator



Kristen McDonald Rivet
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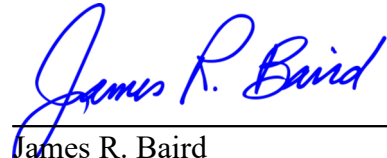
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Tracey Mann
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United States Senator



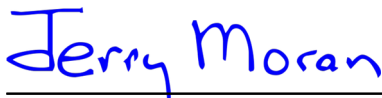
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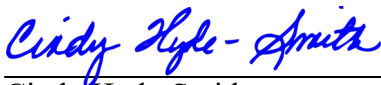
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Thom Tillis
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David Rouzer
Member of Congress



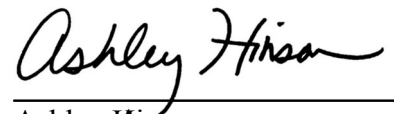
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Terri A. Sewell
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Dan Newhouse
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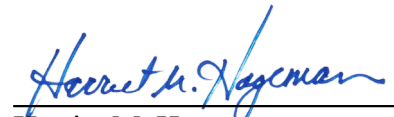
Derek Schmidt
Member of Congress



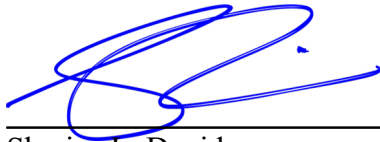
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



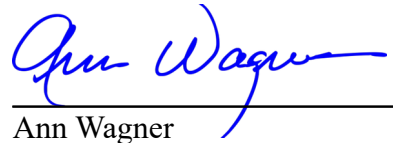
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Sharice L. Davids
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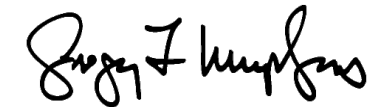
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Mark B. Messmer
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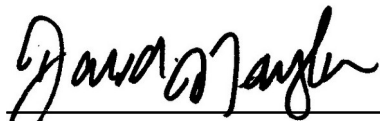
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Darin LaHood
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Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



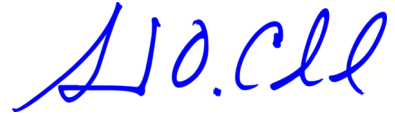
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Julia Letlow, Ph.D.
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Salud Carbajal
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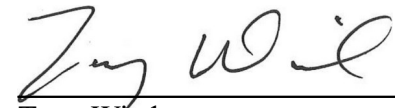
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Vince Fong
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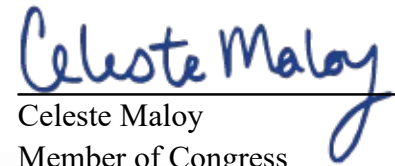
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Tony Wied
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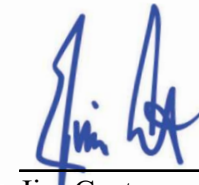
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Celeste Maloy
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Zach Nunn
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