

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 15, 2021

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

We write to ask for your support in co-locating the Critical Materials Supply Chain research facility included in the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) with the existing Critical Materials Institute located at the Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory.

The IIJA includes \$75 million for a Critical Materials Supply Chain research facility. As you know, the Ames Laboratory currently leads the Critical Materials Institute, one of only five Department of Energy Innovation Hubs. The Critical Materials Institute works on challenges that are crucial to the State of Iowa and our Nation's energy security, economic security, and national security.

Ames Laboratory is leading the nation in critical minerals by diversifying supply, developing substitutes, and driving reuse and recovery of rare earth materials and critical minerals. Ensuring that the Critical Materials Supply Chain Research Facility and Critical Materials Institute are in close coordination will strengthen the Department of Energy's mission of ensuring America's security and prosperity by addressing energy challenges through transformative science and technology solutions. It will also further enhance Ames Laboratory's contributions to the State and the Nation, which has been a proven leader in critical mineral research.

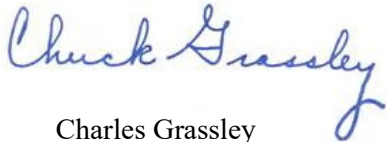
A Critical Materials Supply Chain Research Facility is in full alignment with the laboratory's mission to deliver critical materials solutions to the nation, and the Lab's three decades of experience in discovering innovations that will lead to a more sustainable future gives us confidence that Ames can deliver for the Department of Energy. By collocating the facilities, it would provide countless scientists the opportunity to modernize and strengthen our nation's domestic energy supply by participating in cutting-edge research.

Further, a U.S. critical materials facility would enable significant research, development, demonstration, and commercialization of materials necessary to meet growing national needs. Recent reports indicate it is likely that our nation's supply of critical materials will continue to diminish in the short term.

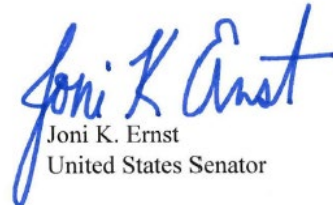
As several news outlets have reported, China has limited the export of rare earth minerals that are crucial for the manufacture of sophisticated weapons and other products such as electric vehicles and wind turbines. A collocated critical materials research center would assist our nation in increasing domestic production of critical materials while increasing our independence from foreign nations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Charles Grassley  
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



Ashley Hinson  
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress

Cc:

J. Stephen Binkley, Office of Science Acting Director and Principal Deputy Director  
Geraldine Lee Richmond, Under Secretary of Energy for Science