

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 17: Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Exploratory Mineral Separation

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Dembrow

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Energy in the amount of \$320,000 to conduct resource identification and analysis of minerals in partnership with two federal laboratories.

The Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory is proposing to lead a \$2 million project in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory and the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. The project will explore alternative separation methods to try and identify a mining technique for critical elements with less environmental impact and higher mineral production.

The Department's portion of the grant is \$320,000 to provide resource identification, clay characterization, and critical element analysis. The analysis will be conducted on clay samples collected from Southeastern Oregon, where the land contains several minerals of interest, including lithium, barium, magnesium, and titanium.

The grant application is due by December 13th and requires a 20% match, which the Department will meet through existing staff costs and data sharing.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.