



## **BMTC Response to Notice of Proposed Changes to the Slate of Industry Trade Advisory Committees**

The Battery Materials and Technology Coalition (BMTC) is writing in support of the changes proposed by the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and Secretary of Commerce for a new four-year charter for the Industry Trade Advisory Committees (ITACs). Specifically, BMTC applauds the proposed plan to bifurcate the current ITAC 5 on Forest Products, Building Materials, Construction, and Nonferrous Metals into two separate committees with amended names: Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Critical Minerals and Nonferrous Metals (ITAC 5) and Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Forest Products and Building Materials (new ITAC 8). BMTC believes that this change will improve coordination on trade and policy priorities to support a domestic minerals and metals industry, which must navigate overburdened supply chains and volatile global markets.

BMTC is comprised of companies in the upstream and midstream battery and critical material sectors that are united behind a shared interest in growing a secure North American battery supply chain. Consisting of companies that mine, extract, process, manufacture, and recycle battery materials, as well as develop cathode, anode, cell, pack, and battery technologies, BMTC members are committed to ensuring that the U.S. seizes the opportunity to secure the supply chains that electrify our economy and power our way of life. This includes companies that mine and process various critical minerals including graphite (natural and synthetic), lithium, and nickel.

Critical minerals are of increasing importance to national security and climate priorities as the U.S. seeks to secure supply chains while investing in technologies to electrify our economy and reduce emissions. Currently, China controls a majority of global battery mineral markets – including 59% of lithium processing, 65% of nickel processing, 93% of synthetic graphite processing, and 100% of natural graphite processing. This stranglehold on critical mineral supply chains creates a range of adverse effects, including market-access problems, trade barriers, and discriminatory procurement practices. The establishment of an ITAC focused on the mineral and metal sectors will ensure the U.S. takes an informed, coordinated, and impactful approach to the trade agreements, policies, tariffs, and global market practices that impact the sector – thereby supporting this critical domestic industry.

In addition, the creation of a critical minerals ITAC supports the Biden Administration's commitment to building a robust, critical minerals industry. The passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has secured billions in new investments into the domestic minerals sector, and the administration's Executive Order on America's Supply Chains and launch of an all-of-government approach to securing and onshoring critical supply chains point to a need for an advisory committee to directly focus on these issues moving forward.

We applaud USTR and the Commerce Department for recognizing the importance of critical minerals to the Biden Administration's national security and climate priorities, and for forming a new ITAC with this specific focus. For questions or inquiries about BMTC and this response please reach out to Ben Steinberg, Executive Vice President at Venn Strategies, at [bsteinberg@vennstrategies.com](mailto:bsteinberg@vennstrategies.com).