

Support the China-Africa Mining Transparency Act

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Background:

The Chinese operated mining industry in Africa is rife with human rights abuses, such as forced and child labor. Chinese companies often ignore and even participate in rampant human suffering at its mining operations in Africa. In 2023, the U.S. Department of Labor estimated that 78 percent of the cobalt mining workforce employed at Chinese mines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R.C.) had experienced some form of forced labor. The same report also stated that about two-thirds of workers at artisanal and small-scale mining sites and a quarter of workers at large-scale mining sites reported that children work at their worksite.¹ Additionally, Chinese mining operations in Africa often result in ecological disasters due to their sub-par construction standards and general disregard for the environment. In September 2025, the Chinese state-owned mining company, Sino-Metals, spilled 50,000 tons of toxic waste into Zambia's watershed. The disaster has poisoned the country's water supply, as well as killed unprecedented amounts of fish and crops.²

Since most of the global supply of critical minerals is in some way connected to Chinese mining and processing, it can be difficult for American and other Western companies to distinguish exploitatively extracted minerals from those that are ethically sourced. This legislation will fix that by directing the Department of State to report to Congress every year for five years on these abhorrent business practices.

Legislative Summary:

This legislation will direct the Secretary of State to report to Congress once a year for five years to develop a list of PRC connected entities that are mining for critical minerals, gold, or iron in the D.R.C., Nigeria, Guinea, Zambia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, or other African countries, that are engaging in forced or child labor and/or environmental harm. This is an important first step in identifying the worst human rights abusers in the Chinese owned African mining industry and lay the groundwork for future U.S. government action to hold them accountable.

For more information on this bill, please contact Michael Kraan with Rep. Miller at Michael.Kraan@mail.house.gov.

¹ <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/DRC-FL-Cobalt-Report-508.pdf>

² <https://www.thetimes.com/world/africa/article/chinese-mining-firm-toxic-spill-zambia-6lvfrwp7z>