

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7644

To amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to modify the authorities of the Millennium Challenge Corporation relating to strategic competitors of the United States and critical minerals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Mr. BARR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to modify the authorities of the Millennium Challenge Corporation relating to strategic competitors of the United States and critical minerals.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Millennium Challenge
5 Corporation Strategic Modernization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Millennium Challenge Corporation is an
2 independent United States Government agency that
3 delivers results-driven foreign assistance, using a
4 transparent, data-driven model rooted in good gov-
5 ernance, economic freedom, and investment in people
6 to advance America’s economic and strategic inter-
7 ests.

8 (2) Strategic competitors of the United States,
9 including the People’s Republic of China, the Rus-
10 sian Federation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran,
11 increasingly deploy state-directed finance, infrastruc-
12 ture development, and resource investments to gain
13 long-term political and economic leverage in devel-
14 oping countries.

15 (3) The global supply of critical minerals is in-
16 creasingly concentrated, opaque, and vulnerable to
17 coercion by strategic competitors of the United
18 States, creating risks to United States national secu-
19 rity, energy security, and advanced manufacturing.

20 (4) The Millennium Challenge Corporation’s
21 tools, including grant-based financing, policy reform
22 conditionality, and high governance standards, are
23 well-suited to addressing constraints in critical min-
24 eral supply chains, such as infrastructure gaps, reg-

1 ulatory weaknesses, and workforce development limi-
2 tations.

3 (5) Earlier and more systematic engagement by
4 the Millennium Challenge Corporation with the
5 United States private sector can improve project de-
6 sign, crowd in private capital, and strengthen eco-
7 nomic ties between partner countries and the United
8 States.

9 (6) The modernization of the Millennium Chal-
10 lenge Corporation should strengthen, not dilute, its
11 core development mission and independence.

12 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that—

14 (1) strategic competition considerations should
15 inform but not replace the Millennium Challenge
16 Corporation’s existing eligibility standards;

17 (2) reforms should increase transparency, ac-
18 countability, and value to United States taxpayers;
19 and

20 (3) the Millennium Challenge Corporation
21 should be modernized as a strategic asset in an era
22 of global competition.

23 **SEC. 4. PURPOSES.**

24 Section 602 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003
25 (22 U.S.C. 7701) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the
2 end;

3 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at
4 the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(3) to advance United States economic secu-
7 rity and strategic competitiveness by supporting eli-
8 gible country reforms and investments that strength-
9 en critical mineral supply chains, strategic infra-
10 structure, and market-based economic integration,
11 while also supporting poverty reduction and sustain-
12 able economic growth.”.

13 **SEC. 5. CRITICAL MINERALS TASK FORCE.**

14 Section 604 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003
15 (22 U.S.C. 7703) is amended by adding at the end the
16 following:

17 “(d) CRITICAL MINERALS TASK FORCE.—

18 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Board of Direc-
19 tors shall establish in the Corporation a Critical
20 Minerals Task Force (in this subsection referred to
21 as the ‘Task Force’).

22 “(2) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

23 “(A) assess global and regional critical
24 mineral supply chain vulnerabilities to United
25 States economic and national security;

1 “(B) identify candidate countries in which
2 Corporation engagement could enhance trans-
3 parent, diversified, and sustainable mineral sup-
4 ply chains;

5 “(C) evaluate infrastructure, regulatory,
6 environmental, labor, and governance con-
7 straints affecting mineral development and
8 downstream processing;

9 “(D) recommend priority policy reforms
10 and investment areas appropriate for Corpora-
11 tion assistance; and

12 “(E) coordinate, as appropriate, with rel-
13 evant United States Government agencies, mul-
14 tilateral institutions, and private sector stake-
15 holders.

16 “(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
17 this subsection may be construed to authorize the
18 Corporation to engage in extractive activities or to
19 subsidize mineral production.”.

20 **SEC. 6. GREAT POWER COMPETITION FACTSHEET.**

21 Section 607 of the Millennium Challenge Corporation
22 Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7706) is amended by adding at
23 the end the following:

24 “(g) GREAT POWER COMPETITION FACTSHEET.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In determining eligible
2 countries under this section, the Board shall assess
3 strategic exposure and resilience of candidate coun-
4 tries to the People’s Republic of China, the Russian
5 Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and other
6 strategic competitors of the United States using the
7 factors described in paragraph (2). The assessment
8 carried out under this paragraph may be referred to
9 as the ‘Great Power Competition Factsheet’ (in this
10 subsection referred to as the ‘GPC Factsheet’).

11 “(2) FACTORS DESCRIBED.—The GPC Fact-
12 sheet shall include, where data are available—

13 “(A) trade volumes, export dependencies,
14 and import reliance involving the People’s Re-
15 public of China, the Russian Federation, the Is-
16 lamic Republic of Iran, and other strategic com-
17 petitors of the United States;

18 “(B) foreign direct investment, sovereign
19 lending, and state-owned enterprise activity
20 from such countries;

21 “(C) foreign assistance, concessional fi-
22 nance, and debt exposure linked to such coun-
23 tries;

24 “(D) ownership, control, financing, or op-
25 eration of strategic infrastructure, including

1 ports, rail, power generation, transmission, dig-
 2 ital networks, and data systems such countries;

3 “(E) critical mineral endowments, proc-
 4 essing capacity, export controls, and governance
 5 frameworks; and

6 “(F) alignment with international trans-
 7 parency, labor, environmental, and anti-corrup-
 8 tion standards.

9 “(3) LIMITATION.—The GPC Factsheet shall
 10 inform Board deliberations but shall not replace
 11 other eligibility criteria under other provisions of
 12 law.”.

13 **SEC. 7. MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE COMPACT.**

14 Section 609 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003
 15 (22 U.S.C. 7708) is amended—

16 (1) by amending subsection (j) to read as fol-
 17 lows:

18 “(j) DURATION OF COMPACT.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The implementation of a
 20 Compact shall not exceed 5 years.

21 “(2) OTHER MATTERS.—The Corporation
 22 shall—

23 “(A) obligate the entire funding for a
 24 Compact upon the execution of the Compact;
 25 and

1 “(B) consult with the appropriate congres-
2 sional committees at the commencement of the
3 implementation period of a Compact.”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(m) EARLY PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT.—In
6 developing a Compact under this section or under other
7 programs developed under section 616, the Corporation
8 shall, to the extent practicable, engage United States pri-
9 vate sector entities, investors, and technical experts during
10 the early stages of project identification and design. Such
11 engagement shall seek to—

12 “(1) improve the feasibility and effectiveness of
13 Compact projects;

14 “(2) mobilize private capital to supplement as-
15 sistance provided under this title; and

16 “(3) enhance the long-term sustainability and
17 impact of assistance provided under this title.

18 “(n) TIMELY COMPLETION OF CONSTRAINT ANAL-
19 YSIS AND DUE DILIGENCE.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall use
21 best efforts to commence implementation of the pro-
22 gram by ensuring that all required constraint anal-
23 yses, feasibility studies, environmental assessments,
24 economic analyses, and other forms of due diligence
25 necessary for project commencement are conducted

1 in an expeditious and efficient manner, consistent
2 with the Corporation's policies.

3 “(2) SAFEGUARDS.—Nothing in this subsection
4 may be construed to authorize the circumvention of
5 any requirements for a Compact described in sub-
6 section (b)(1).

7 “(3) BOARD OVERSIGHT.—During the period
8 beginning on which a Compact or an agreement
9 under section 616 is entered into and ending on the
10 date on which the Compact or agreement has com-
11 menced implementation, the Corporation shall peri-
12 odically provide a written update to the Board and
13 consult with the appropriate congressional commit-
14 tees to describe—

15 “(A) the status of the program, including
16 the anticipated date of implementation the pro-
17 gram will commence;

18 “(B) issues that may negatively impact the
19 anticipated date implementation will commence
20 and steps taken to resolve such issues; and

21 “(C) any measures adopted with the intent
22 to mitigate the issues identified in subpara-
23 graph (B) for future Compacts or agreements
24 under section 616.”.

1 **SEC. 8. CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.**

2 Section 610(a) of the Millennium Challenge Corpora-
3 tion Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7709(a)) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
5 graph (5); and

6 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(4) COMPLEMENTARY FRAMEWORK.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to a re-
10 port describing the economic rate of return of
11 the Compact as required under paragraph
12 (3)(A), the Corporation shall develop and in-
13 clude in the report a complementary framework
14 to assess benefits accruing to the United States
15 under the Compact.

16 “(B) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Such
17 complementary framework may include—

18 “(i) diversification and resilience of
19 critical supply chains and inputs to United
20 States productive activities;

21 “(ii) increased participation of United
22 States companies and investors;

23 “(iii) actions to reduce recipient coun-
24 try exposure to strategic competitors;

25 “(iv) export of goods and services
26 from the United States; and

- 1 “(v) strengthened diplomatic and eco-
- 2 nomic partnerships.”.

