

## **Congress to Address U.S. Rare Earth Shortage**

Members of U.S. Congress had introduced a new bill on last March that they would recover the U.S. rare earths supply-chain and build a national stock to meet military and technology industry needs.

In clean technology, such as hybrid and electric car motors, solar panels and wind turbines, rare earth elements have become essential. In defense technologies such as cruise missiles, radar and sonar, they also play very important roles.

U.S. depends on China to provide almost total supply of rare earth elements. Although have about 15 percent of the world's reserves, U.S. has let its own rare earth production Weary. China government has made a draft of rare earths plan for 2009-2015 in which it states that China's own industrial demand could soon lead to restrictions or bans on the rare earth exportings.

"It's not just a defense problem, it's a national problem," Jim Hedrick, a recently-retired USGS rare earth specialist, told TechNewsDaily.

"91 percent of U.S. consumption of rare earths is imported from China between 2005 and 2008", the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) pointed out.

Because of such warnings, Colorado Congressman Mike Coffman to introduce The Rare Earth Supply-Chain Technology and Resource Transformation (RESTART) Act of 2010 in the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday.

Comparing with North America where no rare earth mining take place, over 95 percent of worldwide rare earth mining is located in China today. However, almost 75% relative industries is located in North America and Europea. In the long term, the worldwide demand is growing which will cause the situation become worse.

This bill is dedicated to promote the congress donate more money and labor on the rare earth supply chain. In order to consolidate their heading position on military industry, they have to build stockfile of rare earth elements.