

REFERENCE TITLE: manganese; criteria pollutant; urging EPA

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Introduced by

Representatives Stahl Hamilton: Aguilar, Austin, Blattman, Contreras L,
Contreras P, Crews, De Los Santos, Gutierrez, Hernandez A, Hernandez C,
Hernandez L, Mathis, Ortiz, Pawlik, Peshlakai, Quiñonez, Sandoval,
Schwiebert, Seaman, Shah, Terech, Travers, Tsosie, Villegas

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY TO INCLUDE MANGANESE AS A CRITERIA POLLUTANT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the Hermosa mine located in the Patagonia mountains is a
4 proposed zinc, silver and manganese mine that has been designated for
5 inclusion in the federal FAST-41 program; and

6 Whereas, according to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease
7 Registry (ATSDR), the most common health problems in workers who are
8 exposed to high levels of manganese involve the nervous system; and

9 Whereas, according to the ATSDR, the inhalation of a large quantity
10 of dust or fumes containing manganese may cause irritation of the lungs,
11 which could lead to pneumonia; and

12 Whereas, workers in manganese mines are known to have experienced
13 memory loss, slurred speech and other physical impairments tied to
14 ingesting the mineral's fine dust; and

15 Whereas, when sufficiently severe, this combination of symptoms is
16 referred to as "manganism"; and

17 Whereas, manganese is a primary component of electric vehicle
18 batteries, which are key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the
19 transportation sector; and

20 Whereas, according to the United States Geological Survey, the
21 United States has been totally reliant on imports of manganese for many
22 decades, importing the bulk of the manganese needed for domestic electric
23 vehicle battery manufacturing from China and South Africa; and

24 Whereas, global demand from the battery sector is expected to
25 increase ninefold over the next decade as electric vehicle suppliers use
26 high-purity manganese to increase battery efficiency and reduce
27 combustibility; and

28 Whereas, under section 112 of the Clean Air Act, the United States
29 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to develop
30 technology-based standards for hazardous air pollutants, including
31 manganese, that are emitted by industrial sources; and

32 Whereas, the Clean Air Act requires the EPA to set national ambient
33 air quality standards for six principal pollutants, called "criteria
34 pollutants," that are common in outdoor air, considered harmful to public
35 health and the environment, and come from numerous and diverse sources.

36 Wherefore, your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
37 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

38 1. That the United States Environmental Protection Agency include
39 manganese as a criteria pollutant under the national ambient air quality
40 standards to mitigate the public health impacts of manganese mining.

41 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit
42 copies of this Memorial to the Administrator of the United States
43 Environmental Protection Agency.