

Arkansas Leaders Urge Pentagon to Immediately Purchase Vanadium for the National Defense Stockpile

Arkansas' two U.S. Senators and two Arkansas Congressmen are urging Pentagon Secretary Pete Hegseth to support expansion of vanadium production in the U.S.

HOT SPRINGS, AR, UNITED STATES, May 21, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Arkansas' two U.S. Senators and two Arkansas Congressmen are urging Pentagon Secretary Pete Hegseth to support expansion of vanadium production in the U.S. in order to counter the current effective control of vanadium supply chains by Russia and China.

In two separate letters to Secretary Hegseth, Arkansas Senators Tom Cotton (R-AR) and John Boozman (R-AR) and Arkansas Representatives Bruce Westerman (R-AR) and French Hill (R-AR) urged Secretary Hegseth to direct the National Defense Stockpile to purchase and store at least 1 year's supply of vanadium in order to better insulate the U.S. military and commercial manufacturers from potential supply chain disruptions because of Russia's and China's control of 75% of global vanadium supply chains. U.S. Reps. Troy Balderson (R-OH), Rich McCormick (R-GA), Mike Kelly (R-PA) and Randy Weber (R-TX) also joined in urging action by Secretary Hegseth.

Arkansas-based U.S. Vanadium is the leading producer of high-purity vanadium oxide in the U.S. and praised the Senators and Congressman for their leadership in raising this issue and promoting more domestic production of vanadium, which is a U.S. Government-designated critical mineral.

"We applaud the strong leadership of Senators Cotton and Boozman and Congressmen Westerman and Hill for alerting the Pentagon and the Trump Administration to the strategic



US Sen. Tom Cotton



US Sen. John Boozman



US Rep. Bruce Westerman



US Rep. French Hill

Arkansas Senators Cotton and Boozman, and Congressman Westerman and Hill, go to bat for Hot Springs-based U.S. Vanadium.

vanadium vulnerability facing the U.S., and to take action to mitigate this threat by stockpiling vanadium and encouraging greater domestic production of this strategic material,” said US Vanadium Executive Chairman Mark Smith. “We also greatly appreciate the continuing strong support provided to our company by the entire Arkansas congressional delegation and for their ongoing efforts to support economic growth and job creation in Arkansas.”

“US Vanadium’s high-purity vanadium processing facilities in Arkansas are quite unique in the extremely high quality of product we are able to produce and the fact that our feedstock comes from post-industrial waste streams. This business model provides very attractive circular economics while also bolstering America’s domestic production of this defense-critical mineral,” added US Vanadium CEO Darryll Castle. “There is very strong industrial and national security logic behind having the U.S. National Defense Stockpile begin purchasing and storing significant amounts of US-produced vanadium products to better insulate the country from the risks associated with current global vanadium supply chains that are dominated by nations that don’t necessarily have US interests at heart.”

Arkansas’ representatives in Washington are very influential on national security and critical minerals supply chain issues. Senator Cotton is Chairman of the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee and also serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee; Senator Boozman serves on the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee and is Chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. Congressman Westerman chairs the House Natural Resources Committee, and Congressman Hill chairs the House Financial Services Committee and serves on the House Permanent Select Committee On Intelligence.

The Senators wrote: “Vanadium is an official USGS Critical Mineral required for ballistic missiles, jet engines and airframes, night vision, armor steel, body armor, combat vehicles, and other weapons systems critical to national defense. China and Russia control 75% of the global vanadium supply, leaving the Department of Defense open to significant disruption in its weapons supply chain.

“Vanadium compounds such as high purity vanadium pentoxide and ferrovanadium are critical to applications where steel and titanium are used, meaning they are a key element of US defense and essential civilian technologies. The United States consumed 14,000 metric tons of vanadium in 2024, with domestic production only accounting for 3,800 metric tons. The United States imports high purity vanadium pentoxide from Brazil and South Africa, but market conditions threaten those supply chains. Ferrovanadium supply chains rely on material converted in-part from Russian and Chinese material. Currently, no substitute materials exist.

“The United States risks being left without viable resources of this critical mineral if the Department and Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) do not take decisive action. We request DLA immediately begin to stockpile at least one year of military and essential civilian uses of both ferrovanadium and aerospace grade vanadium pentoxide in the National Defense Stockpile (NDS). We also request the Department work with the rest of the United States government to

prioritize domestic production of vanadium compounds, to include reviewing environmental and other regulations that stifle domestic production.”

The Congressmen reiterated the need for action on vanadium: “When President Trump addressed the joint session of Congress on March 4, 2025, the President reiterated his support of dramatically expanding production of critical minerals and rare earth elements in America. Therefore, we ask your office to direct the DLA (Defense Logistics Agency) to stockpile at least one year of military and essential civilian uses of ferrovandium and aerospace grade vanadium pentoxide. As our country reviews critical supply chains that are central to our competitiveness in the face of rising global threats, we urge you to consider the importance of vanadium and the concerning global supply chain of the industry.”

More information on U.S. Vanadium, and vanadium technologies in general, can be seen on U.S. Vanadium’s website: <https://www.usvanadium.com>.

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About U.S. Vanadium LLC

U.S. Vanadium produces and sells a range of specialty vanadium chemicals, including the highest-purity vanadium pentoxide (“V₂O₅”) and vanadium trioxide (“V₂O₃”) in the world and ultra-high-purity electrolyte for vanadium flow batteries from its flagship facility in Hot Springs, Arkansas USA. The company is comprised of global leaders and investors in specialty chemicals and strategic materials, including in the mining, processing, purification, and sales and distribution of vanadium specialty chemicals. For more information, please go

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