

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 22, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bessent  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Chair, Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Bessent:

As Members of Congress committed to protecting our national security, we write to express our deep concern regarding the recent conveyance of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land in central Arizona to Resolution Copper Mining, LLC (“Resolution Copper”), a joint venture of two international mining conglomerates with significant ties to the People’s Republic of China (PRC). This transfer, which occurred on March 13, 2026, placed thousands of acres of public land located near Arizona’s Luke Air Force Base under the control of Resolution Copper, along with one of the nation’s largest undeveloped deposits of copper and other critical minerals.

**Given the site’s proximity to a sensitive military installation and the strategic importance of copper to U.S. national security, we respectfully urge the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to initiate a review of the Resolution Copper land transfer as expeditiously as possible.**

PRC Ownership of Resolution Copper

In the FY15 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress directed USFS to transfer 2,422 acres of the Tonto National Forest to Resolution Copper, which it defined as “a Delaware limited liability company, including any successor, assign, affiliate member, or joint venturer.” The statutory language explicitly failed to acknowledge that Resolution Copper is owned by BHP and Rio Tinto, two of the largest foreign mining corporations in the world.<sup>1</sup>

Alarming, both BHP and Rio Tinto generate more than half of their revenue from exporting minerals to the PRC, and Rio Tinto’s largest shareholder is the Aluminum Corporation of China (Chinalco), a wholly PRC-state-owned enterprise and major global producer of copper and other metals.<sup>2</sup> Rio Tinto has publicly stated that China is “the most profitable destination for almost any mine in the world to sell its copper.”<sup>3</sup>

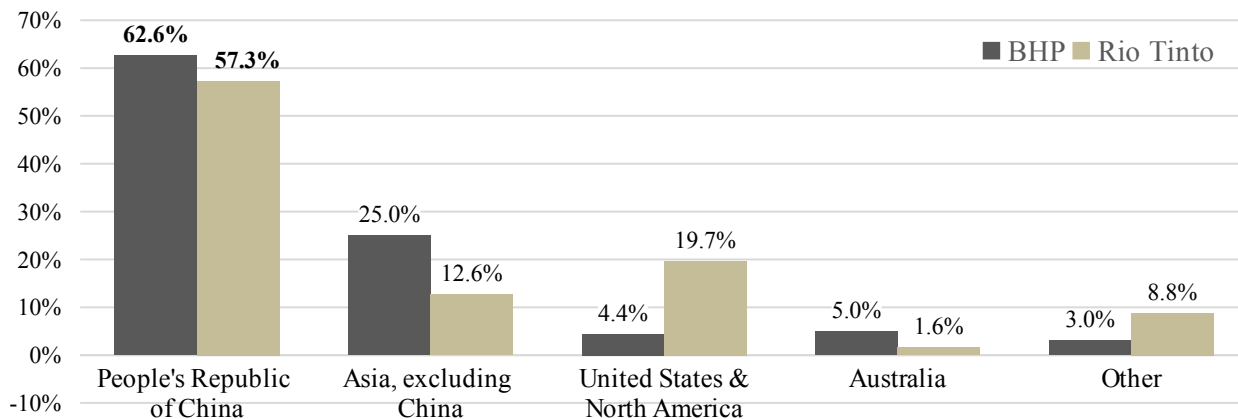
BHP and Rio Tinto Net Sales, By Geographic Distribution.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution Copper Mining, LLC, “About Us,” Resolution Copper, accessed February 25, 2026, <https://resolutioncopper.com/about-us/>

<sup>2</sup> Australian Consulate-General Guangzhou, “Chinalco’s Acquisition of Shares in Rio Tinto,” August 29, 2008, <https://guangzhou.china.embassy.gov.au/gzho/MediaEN815.html>

<sup>3</sup> Rio Tinto, Comment submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security, Docket No. BIS-2025-0010, April 1, 2025.



Proximity to Sensitive U.S. Military Facilities

Resolution Copper’s proposed mine site is located within 100 miles of Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, Arizona — a major U.S. military operational and training facility. Under the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act (FIRRMA) and your Department’s 2024 rulemaking, real estate transactions within a 100-mile radius of designated military facilities, including Luke Air Force Base, fall within CFIUS jurisdiction.<sup>5</sup> This authority, which has been used previously,<sup>6</sup> is intended to safeguard against intelligence collection, surveillance, or other national security risks that may arise from long-term foreign-controlled infrastructure near sensitive defense facilities. Resolution Copper’s proposed mining operations are of particular concern, as they would involve extensive infrastructure development, including surface mining facilities, tunnel passageways, transportation corridors, and electrical systems.

These concerns are amplified by the broader defense footprint in the region. Public reporting indicates that a hypersonic missile manufacturing and testing facility may be developed on state land north of Florence in Pinal County, less than 35 miles from the proposed mine site.<sup>7</sup> The potential expansion of advanced weapons manufacturing underscores the region’s growing strategic importance and further heightens the risk of potential PRC presence.

Given that Rio Tinto’s largest shareholder is Chinalco, a PRC state-owned enterprise, company executives or representatives may periodically travel to the site to review or oversee operations. The potential presence of PRC-linked personnel in a region that hosts multiple sensitive U.S. defense assets warrants careful scrutiny to ensure there are no unresolved national security concerns with such a transaction.

<sup>4</sup> Data obtained from MarketScreener, “Rio Tinto PLC—Company Profile” and “BHP Group Limited—Company Profile,” accessed March 9, 2026 at <https://www.marketscreener.com/quote/stock/RIO-TINTO-PLC-9590196/company/> and <https://www.marketscreener.com/quote/stock/BHP-GROUP-LIMITED-6492795/company/>

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of the Treasury, Appendix A, Part 2 to 31 C.F.R. Part 802—Regulations Pertaining to Certain Transactions by Foreign Persons Involving Real Estate in the United States, 2024, <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-31/part-802>

<sup>6</sup> Executive Office of the President, “Regarding the Acquisition of Certain Real Property of Cheyenne Leads by MineOne Cloud Computing Investment I L.P.,” Federal Register 89 FR 43301, May 16, 2024, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/05/16/2024-10966/regarding-the-acquisition-of-certain-real-property-of-cheyenne-leads-by-mineone-cloud-computing-investment-i-lp>

<sup>7</sup> N.A., “Missile Manufacturer Reportedly Interested in Land Near Florence,” Pinal Central, November 4, 2025, [https://www.pinalcentral.com/florence\\_reminder\\_blade\\_tribune/missile-manufacturer-reportedly-interested-in-land-near-florence/article\\_1c6aba7d-d265-431d-93bf-c720ddad05f2.html](https://www.pinalcentral.com/florence_reminder_blade_tribune/missile-manufacturer-reportedly-interested-in-land-near-florence/article_1c6aba7d-d265-431d-93bf-c720ddad05f2.html)

U.S. Critical Minerals at Risk

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey formally designated copper as a critical mineral, citing its indispensable role in manufacturing and grid infrastructure.<sup>8</sup> That designation comes against the backdrop of the PRC's growing dominance of global critical mineral supply chains, particularly in its processing capacity. As your administration has repeatedly warned, failing to counter the PRC's domination in critical and rare earth minerals poses a significant national security and economic threat to the United States.<sup>9</sup>

Yet the legislative language mandating the Resolution Copper land transfer does not require that the extracted copper be processed or sold in the U.S., nor does it guarantee any other benefit to American consumers or taxpayers. Given how the geopolitical landscape around critical minerals has recently escalated, combined with the lack of safeguards preventing the copper from being shipped overseas, heightened scrutiny of the transaction is certainly warranted.

**Taken together, the facts outlined in this letter present a potential major national security concern: the transfer of one of America's largest undeveloped critical mineral deposits to a foreign-owned entity with substantial financial ties to the PRC, in close proximity to sensitive U.S. military installations and emerging advanced weapons infrastructure.**

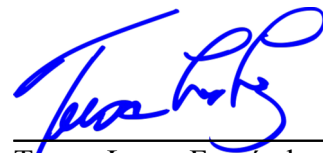
To ensure the protection of America's strategic resources and military capacity, we respectfully urge CFIUS to initiate a comprehensive review of the Resolution Copper land transfer. At a minimum, the review should assess the risks associated with foreign influence over the extraction, processing, and disposition of copper and other critical minerals extracted from public lands, as well as the implications of long-term industrial operations near Luke Air Force Base and other defense assets. CFIUS was established to examine precisely this type of transaction — we hope you will give this matter the urgent and careful consideration that it deserves.

Sincerely,



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Maxine Waters  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Financial Services



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Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee  
on Indian and Insular Affairs

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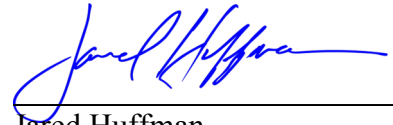
<sup>8</sup> U.S. Geological Survey, "Interior Department Releases Final 2025 List of Critical Minerals," November 14, 2025, <https://www.usgs.gov/news/science-snippet/interior-department-releases-final-2025-list-critical-minerals>

<sup>9</sup> The Heritage Foundation, "Project Vault: Trump's Bold Plan to Stop China from Starving Our Military," February 18, 2026, <https://www.heritage.org/defense/commentary/project-vault-trumps-bold-plan-stop-china-starving-our-military>



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