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Improving Capacity for Critical Mineral Recovery Through Electronic Waste Recycling/Reuse: U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works Hearing

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The United States Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works (“Committee”) held a July 26th hearing titled:

Improving Capacity for Critical Mineral Recovery through Electronic Waste Recycling and Reuse (“Hearing”)

Committee Chairman Tom Carper (Delaware) stated that the purpose of the *Hearing* was to:

- Examine challenges facing electronic wastes (e-waste) recycling and reuse
- Examine opportunities to improve critical mineral recovery

The Chairman’s opening statement highlighted three points:

- Economic Value Lost by Inadequate E-Waste Recycling Infrastructure
- Difficulties recycling/reusing e-waste
- 50 million tons of e-waste discarded in landfills globally valued at an estimated \$62.5 billion
- Opportunities to improve E-Waste Recycling
- Recycling electronics at the end of their useable life allows for the recovery of critical minerals (citing nickel and cobalt)
- Recovering e-waste minerals are important components of electric vehicles, solar panels, and other clean energy technologies
- Need for the United States to join the Basel Convention
- United States is the only developed country not party to the Basel Convention which governs the transportation of hazardous waste between nations
- Has the United States’ failure to ratify the Basel Convention impacted the electronics recycling industry over the last 20 or 30 years?
- How will the United States be affected by the new Swiss-Ghana amendment to the Basel Convention which establishes new definitions for hazardous and non-hazardous electronic waste?

Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito (West Virginia) opening statement highlights included:

- Notes Two E-Waste Misconceptions

- Managing e-waste is an issue for a later date
- E-waste is somebody else's problem once we discard it
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency is Determined that E-Waste is the Fastest-Growing Segment of the Waste Stream
- Even the Most Optimistic Estimates Assume Less Than 20% of E-Waste is Properly Collected and Recycled
- Improperly Managed E-Waste Exports Contribute to Intellectual Property Theft Through Microchip Counterfeiting
- By Reducing Reliance on Overseas Mineral Production and Enhancing Domestic Recycling National Security Can Be Bolstered Reducing Potential Vulnerabilities
- Capacity to Refurbish and Recover Valuable Minerals from Discarded E-Waste Has Greatly Improved

A list of the *Hearing* witnesses and links to their written statements can be found below.

Ajay Kochhar

President, CEO, and Co-Founder

Li-Cycle

[07-26-2023 Kochhar Testimony.pdf \(1.8 MBs\)](#)

Craig Boswell, P.E.

President and Co-Founder

HOB International, Incorporated

[07-26-2023 Boswell Testimony.pdf \(55.8 KBs\)](#)

Kitty McIlroy

President, Maryland Recycling Network and Project Manager

Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority

[07-24-2023 McIlroy Testimony.pdf \(44.6 MBs\)](#)

Charles Pellicane

Executive Vice President, Business Development and Operations

Human-I-T

[07-26-2023 Pellicane Testimony.pdf \(974.1 KBs\)](#)