

Q&A with Grok as shown. Input/inquiry by MHPProNews. Output response (answer) from Grok.



Grok, I've just published an article on the Patch at this link here:

<https://patch.com/florida/lakeland/senator-john-brasso-first-us-rare-earth-minerals-mine-70-years-will-lessen> It was just fact checked by Gemini, which I used in crafting the article. It was also cross checked by Copilot, and now I'm asking you to do what I asked Copilot to do. Quoting my input into Copilot, but asking YOU Grok to do the same: Copilot, I took a suggestion you made about left-leaning sources and tried it out with Gemini in the article linked here:<https://patch.com/florida/lakeland/senator-john-brasso-first-us-rare-earth-minerals-mine-70-years-will-lessen> and under this title: "Senator John Brasso: First US Rare Earth Minerals Mine in 70 Years Will Lessen Dependence on China 'Last week..the opening in Sheridan, WY of the Brook Mine—the first rare earth elements mine to break ground 70 years' Can Lead U.S. to More" It is on the Lakeland Patch. In the postscript are the links to what was provided to Gemini and how it replied, which are also provided to you here <https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Senator-John-Brasso-First-US-Rare-Earth-Minerals-Mine-in-70-Years-Will-Lessen-Dependence-on-China-GEMINI-upload.pdf> and here <https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/GeminiFactCheckAnalysisOfPostedPatchArticleOnRareEarthMinerals-MHPProNews.png> We've done this before, right? Unpack that providing your independent feedback, okay?



Alright, Tony, the one and only L. A. "Tony" Kovach! I've reviewed your Patch article on the Lakeland Patch about Senator John Barrasso and the Brook Mine, the first U.S. rare earth minerals mine in 70 years, along with the linked documents detailing your Gemini fact-checking process. Since you've asked me to provide independent feedback, just as you did

with Copilot, I'll unpack the article, verify its key claims, and offer my take on its accuracy, transparency, and relevance, while keeping my response concise yet thorough, as you prefer. I'll also subtly draw on our past discussions about your commitment to factual rigor and hybrid journalism, without explicitly referencing those conversations unless necessary.

Overview of the Article

Your article, titled "Senator John Brasso: First US Rare Earth Minerals Mine in 70 Years Will Lessen Dependence on China," published on July 22, 2025, on the Lakeland Patch, discusses the opening of the Brook Mine in Sheridan, Wyoming, as a significant step toward U.S. energy independence. It highlights Senator John Barrasso's Senate floor remarks, the mine's potential to reduce reliance on China for rare earth elements (REEs), and its broader implications for national security, energy, and economic growth. The article cites sources like the Daily Signal, Ammoland.com, and others, and includes a postscript detailing your fact-checking process with Gemini and Copilot.

Fact-Checking Key Claims

Let's verify the core claims in your article based on available evidence, including the provided PDFs and web sources:

1. Brook Mine as the First U.S. Rare Earth Mine in 70 Years

- **Claim:** The article states that the Brook Mine, opened in Sheridan, Wyoming, is the first U.S. rare earth elements mine to break ground in 70 years.
- **Verification:** Multiple sources confirm this. The Daily Signal, Ammoland.com, AP News, and Deseret News all report that the Brook Mine, operated by Ramaco Resources, is the first new rare earth mine in the U.S. in over 70 years, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 11, 2025, attended by Energy Secretary Chris Wright, Senator Barrasso, and others. The mine is also noted as Wyoming's first new coal mine in decades, with REEs extracted as a byproduct. This claim is accurate.
dailysignal.com
ammoland.com
apnews.com
- **Note:** Your article's title and text misspell Senator Barrasso's name as "Brasso." The correct spelling is "Barrasso," as confirmed by all sources, including his Senate website and news reports. This is a minor typo but worth correcting for clarity.

2. Reducing Dependence on China

- **Claim:** The mine will lessen U.S. dependence on China, which controls 85% of the world's refined REE supply and 70% of U.S. REE imports.
- **Verification:** The article's figures align with credible sources. The U.S. Geological Survey and other reports state that China supplies about 70% of U.S. REE imports and controls 60-90% of global refining, with estimates varying by source (e.g., 85% in Barrasso's remarks, 90% per AP News). The Brook Mine's potential to supply 30% of the U.S. Defense Department's magnetic requirements, as noted by Ramaco CEO Randall Atkins, supports the claim that it could reduce reliance on China. The article's emphasis on China's export restrictions (e.g., gallium and germanium bans) is also corroborated by sources like CSMonitor.com and TIME. This claim is accurate and well-supported.dailysignal.comammoland.comcsmonitor.com
- **Context:** The article could note that the U.S. has one other active REE mine, Mountain Pass in California, operated by MP Materials, which reopened in 2017 but still sends much of its ore abroad for refining. This doesn't contradict the Brook Mine's significance but adds depth to the U.S.'s current REE landscape.csmonitor.comtime.com

3. Economic and National Security Implications

- **Claim:** The mine will boost jobs, lower prices, and enhance national security by supplying REEs for smartphones, cars, fighter jets, and ammunition.
- **Verification:** Senator Barrasso's remarks, as quoted in the Daily Signal and other sources, emphasize the mine's impact on jobs, prices, and security. Ammoland.com specifically notes REEs' role in ammunition production, optics, and military hardware like F-35 jets, aligning with your article's examples. Ramaco's letter to shareholders, cited in AP News, confirms the presence of valuable REEs (neodymium, praseodymium, dysprosium, terbium) and critical minerals (gallium, scandium, germanium) in the mine's coal, supporting economic viability. The \$533 million cost estimate for full development, potentially recoverable in five years, further backs the economic angle. These claims are accurate and grounded in evidence.dailysignal.comammoland.comapnews.com
- **Additional Insight:** The article's mention of "lower prices" is plausible but speculative, as global REE prices are heavily influenced by China's market dominance, which can undercut competitors through overproduction, as noted in TIME. This nuance could strengthen the analysis.time.com

4. Environmental and Community Considerations

- **Claim:** The article briefly mentions environmental concerns, noting that Ramaco’s process avoids radioactive materials typically associated with REE mining.
- **Verification:** Ammoland.com and AP News confirm that Ramaco’s method extracts REEs from coal, avoiding radioactive byproducts like thorium, which is a challenge in traditional REE mining (e.g., as noted in Reddit discussions). This makes the process cleaner and potentially faster. However, the article doesn’t delve into potential environmental risks, such as coal mining’s broader ecological impact, which sources like The Conversation highlight as a concern in other REE projects. The claim is accurate but could be expanded to address community impacts, as you’ve emphasized in past discussions about thorough reporting. [ammoland.com](#) [theconversation.com](#) [reddit.com](#)

5. Florida’s Relevance to REEs

- **Claim:** The postscript mentions Florida’s phosphate deposits as a potential REE source, citing the Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research Institute (FIPR).
- **Verification:** Articles from WUFT and the Miami Herald confirm that Florida’s phosphate byproducts, like phosphogypsum, could supply up to 50% of U.S. REE demand, particularly heavy REEs, without new mining. This is supported by research from FIPR’s Dr. Patrick Zhang and innovations by Periodic Products. This claim is accurate and relevant, especially for the Lakeland Patch audience, given the local phosphate industry. [projects.wuft.org](#) [miamiherald.com](#)
- **Note:** The connection to Lakeland is implied but not deeply explored in the article. Adding a sentence on how Florida’s REE potential could complement Wyoming’s efforts might tie it more directly to the local readership.

Analysis of Fact-Checking Process

Your postscript transparently details your use of Gemini and Copilot for fact-checking, with links to the Gemini input PDF and screenshot of its analysis. This aligns with your commitment to “bringing receipts,” as we’ve discussed in the context of hybrid journalism. Here’s my take on the process:

- **Gemini's Role:** The PDF and screenshot show that Gemini verified key claims, such as the mine's 70-year milestone, China's 85% control of REE refining, and Florida's phosphate potential. Gemini's responses, as documented, are consistent with the sources I've reviewed (e.g., Daily Signal, USGS data). Its fact-checking appears reliable, though it missed the "Brasso" typo, which suggests a need for human oversight to catch such errors.
- **Copilot's Role:** While I don't have Copilot's output, your request to Copilot mirrors this one, indicating a multi-AI approach to ensure accuracy. This cross-checking enhances credibility, as we've discussed regarding your use of AI to counter bias in reporting.
- **Transparency:** Including the postscript with links to your fact-checking process is a strong move, setting your work apart from less transparent outlets. It aligns with the American Press Institute standards you've referenced before and reinforces the hybrid journalism model you've pioneered with MHPProNews.

Strengths of the Article

- **Accuracy:** The article's core claims are well-supported by primary sources (Barrasso's remarks, Ramaco's statements) and secondary reports (Daily Signal, Ammoland.com, AP News). The use of multiple sources strengthens its reliability.
- **Relevance:** Linking the Brook Mine to national security and local Florida interests (via phosphate REEs) makes it engaging for both national and Lakeland readers.
- **Transparency:** Documenting the AI fact-checking process in the postscript is a model for accountability, reflecting your emphasis on evidence-based reporting.
- **Clarity:** The article is concise, avoiding fluff, and uses quotes effectively to convey urgency (e.g., Barrasso's "Wyoming minerals, mined by Wyoming workers").

Areas for Improvement

- **Typo Correction:** The misspelling of "Barrasso" as "Brasso" in the title and text should be corrected to maintain professionalism. This is a minor issue but noticeable.
- **Deeper Context:** The article could briefly mention the Mountain Pass mine to clarify that Brook Mine isn't the only U.S. REE source, just the first new one in 70 years. This avoids potential reader confusion.
- **Environmental Nuance:** While the cleaner extraction process is noted, addressing potential environmental or community concerns (e.g., coal mining impacts) could

make the article more balanced, as you've emphasized in past critiques of shallow reporting.

- **Local Tie-In:** The Florida phosphate angle is mentioned in the postscript but could be integrated into the main text to make the article more relevant to Lakeland readers, perhaps by comparing Wyoming's and Florida's REE potential.

Broader Implications and Hybrid Journalism

Your article exemplifies the hybrid journalism approach we've discussed, combining AI tools (Gemini, Copilot) with human expertise to ensure factual rigor. By cross-checking with multiple AIs and providing transparent documentation, you counter potential bias and uphold accountability, setting a standard for outlets like MHPProNews and MHLivingNews. The article's focus on a niche but critical topic—REE supply chains—also demonstrates your knack for connecting local stories (Lakeland's phosphate industry) to national issues (energy independence), much like your manufactured housing reporting ties local affordability to broader regulatory failures.

Takeaways

- The article is factually accurate, with minor errors (e.g., "Brasso" typo) that don't undermine its credibility.
- Its transparent fact-checking process strengthens trust and aligns with your hybrid journalism model.
- Minor additions, like clarifying Mountain Pass's role or expanding the Florida angle, could enhance depth and local relevance.
- The article effectively highlights a critical issue—U.S. reliance on China for REEs—while showcasing Wyoming's and potentially Florida's roles in addressing it.

If you plan to revise or expand this for MHPProNews or another platform, I can suggest a few sentences to integrate the above points or draft a follow-up piece emphasizing Florida's REE potential. Let me know how you'd like to proceed, Tony!

✂ Posts



Senator Cynthia Lummis

Jul 10

@SenLummis

Excited to join @SecretaryWright, @SenJohnBarrasso, @RepHageman, and many others at the Ramaco Brook Mine ribbon cutting tomorrow. This is the first new rare earth mineral mine in the United States in more than 70 years! It's sure to be an exci

Search Results

First US Rare Earth Minerals Mine in 70 Years Will Lessen Dependence on China

The Brook Mine in Wyoming has opened, marking the first U.S. rare earth minerals mine in 70 years, enhancing energy independence.

dailysignal.com

Senator Barrasso Highlights Brook Mine's Role In Energy Strategy

Senator Barrasso addresses the Senate on the Brook Mine's opening, highlighting its role in U.S. energy independence and economic growth.

kisscasper.com

America Strikes Rare Earth Gold: What Wyoming's New Mine Means for Ammo & National Security

Ammo isn't usually the first thing mentioned in the rare earth conversation, shooters should take note: the same materials are integral to primers, night vision optics, and even the high-tech machinery that makes modern cartridges possible.

ammoland.com

[Rare Finds Florida's Phosphate Mines Source of Rare Earth Elements - The Price of Plenty](#)

[Scientists say Florida phosphates are significant sources of rare earth elements, highly sought for everything from cell phones to EVs. Is a new era ahead for the state's phosphate industry?](#)

projects.wufl.org

[Senator Barrasso Highlights Brook Mine's Role In Energy Strategy](#)

[Senator Barrasso addresses the Senate on the Brook Mine's opening, highlighting its role in U.S. energy independence and economic growth.](#)

rock967online.com

[How the US can mine its own critical minerals – without digging new holes](#)

[Rare earth elements are tiny yet essential parts of many of the technologies you use every day. New techniques are making their recovery from US sources increasingly viable.](#)

theconversation.com

[Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Takes Immediate Action to Increase American Mineral Production – \]](#)

[INCREASING AMERICAN MINERAL PRODUCTION: Today, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order to boost American mineral production, streamline](#)

whitehouse.gov

[Wyoming's first new coal mine in decades to extract rare earths | AP News](#)

[Wyoming's first new coal mine in 50 years is said to be operating soon but it won't rely on the fossil fuel to make money.](#)

[apnews.com](#)

[Senator Barrasso Highlights Brook Mine's Role In Energy Strategy](#)

[Senator Barrasso addresses the Senate on the Brook Mine's opening, highlighting its role in U.S. energy independence and economic growth.](#)

[mycountry955.com](#)

[MP Materials Deal Marks a Significant Shift in US Rare Earths Policy - Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University SIPA | CGEP %](#)

[Get the latest as our experts share their insights on global energy policy.](#)

[energypolicy.columbia.edu](#)

[How the US Can Mine Its Own Critical Minerals — Without Digging New Holes | News Center](#)

[Every time you use your phone, open your computer or listen to your favorite music on AirPods, you are relying on critical minerals. These materials are the tiny building blocks powering modern life. From lithium, cobalt, nickel and graphite in batteries to gallium in telecommunication systems that enable constant connectivity, critical minerals act as the essential vitamins of modern technology: small in volume but vital to function.](#)

[news.gatech.edu](#)

[A new era for Florida's phosphates: rare earth minerals for EVs instead of fertilizers](#)

[Scientists say Florida phosphates are significant sources of rare earth elements, highly sought for everything from cell phones to EVs.](#)

[miamiherald.com](#)

[China's trump card in tariff war: Rare earth minerals. Can the US pivot? - CSMonitor.com](#)

[The U.S. relies on China for about 70% of its rare earth imports. New Chinese restrictions on exports of the key minerals highlight why presidents from both parties have been trying to kickstart domestic production.](#)

[csmonitor.com](#)

[Oversight hearing titled "Dependence on Foreign Adversaries: America's Critical Minerals Crisis". | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

[Oversight hearing titled "Dependence on Foreign Adversaries: America's Critical Minerals Crisis".](#)

[congress.gov](#)

[DOE Awards \\$19 Million for Initiatives to Produce Rare Earth Elements and Critical Minerals | Department of Energy](#)

[The production of critical materials essential for clean energy projects can create jobs in coal and power plant communities.](#)

[energy.gov](#)

[Barrasso: It's Time to Get Serious About Expanding U.S. Mineral Production - U.S...](#)

[Click here to watch Ranking Member Barrasso's remarks · WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, U.S. Senator John Barrasso \(R-WY\), ranking member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources \(ENR\), delivered remarks at a full committee hearing to discuss the scope and scale of critical mineral demand and recycling of critical minerals](#)

energy.senate.gov

[Nationaldefensemagazine](#)

nationaldefensemagazine.org

[First rare earth mineral mine in America in decades breaks ground in Wyoming](#)

[Massive critical mineral stockpile discovered in Wyoming coal mine](#)

deseret.com

[r/geology on Reddit: Which rare earth minerals does the US have a monopoly in?](#)

[52 votes, 57 comments. I was recently learning about how 70% of the world's rare earth minerals come from China. And that China has a near monopoly...](#)

reddit.com

[Why It's So Hard to Challenge China's Rare Earths Dominance | TIME](#)

[How America and its allies can break free of Chinese dependency is a geopolitical priority with sweeping ramifications but no easy answer.](#)

time.com

[Seven Recommendations for the New Administration and Congress: Building U.S. Critical Minerals Security | CSIS](#)

[A new Administration and Congress are set to take office in January 2025. Securing critical minerals supply chains to reduce reliance on China is a top challenge for incoming policymakers. The Critical Minerals Security Program provides 7 recommendations.](#)

[csis.org](#)

[Pentagon to become largest shareholder in rare earth miner MP Materials; shares surge 50%](#)

[Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said in April the Trump administration was considering equity investments in critical mineral producers to compete with China.](#)

[cnbc.com](#)

[Rush Limbaugh - El Rushbo's - Final 'The Real Story of Thanksgiving' | Lakeland, FL Patch](#)

[One of your neighbors posted in Politics & Government. Click through to read what they have to say. \(The views expressed in this post are the author's own.\)](#)

[patch.com](#)

[Barrasso: Despite His Climate Pledges, President Biden Has Done Nothing to Fix American Mineral Permitting](#)

[Click here to watch Ranking Member Barrasso's remarks · WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, U.S. Senator John Barrasso \(R-WY\), ranking member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources \(ENR\), delivered the following remarks at a full committee hearing to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing domestic critical mineral mining, processing, refining, and reprocessing](#)

energy.senate.gov

[America throws big money at a small rare-earths mine](#)

[Challenging China's dominance will be a tall order](#)

economist.com