

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2026

The Honorable Michael P. Cadenazzi, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of War for Industrial Base Policy
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Assistant Secretary Cadenazzi:

As strong supporters of our nation's defense industrial base, we appreciate your leadership at the Department – in particular, your efforts to ensure a reliable domestic supply of the most critical minerals, including gallium, and the refining capability to deliver these products in a manner that supports our warfighters and strengthens our national security. We write to urge you to utilize resources made available in the recent government funding bill to partner with the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL/RI) in Rome, NY as well as other regional partners across Central New York and the Mohawk Valley to invest in a domestic source of gallium, essential to U.S. national security.

As you know, gallium is a strategic material essential to U.S. national security and advanced technology sectors. A relatively rare metal, gallium is a critical input for numerous defense systems and consumer electronic devices, enabling wireless communications, GPS navigation, and high-performance computing. It is used in semiconductors, high-frequency chips, and products like LEDs, as well as advanced radar systems, power electronics, and even some medical devices.

We are concerned by the United States' dependence on foreign sources for gallium, particularly China, which currently holds a 98 percent share of the global supply and has imposed an export ban on shipments to the United States. This monopoly presents a significant supply chain vulnerability with implications for defense readiness and technological competitiveness, especially as geopolitical tensions increase. It is essential for U.S. national security that we support domestic advanced materials science research on the gallium extraction process and establish a secure and resilient domestic gallium supply chain here in the U.S. capable of meeting projected demand.

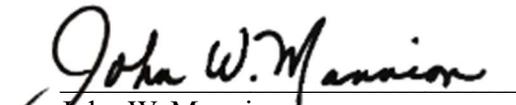
Thankfully, Congress has recognized the need to invest in and grow existing U.S.-based efforts to secure a stable North American gallium supply chain through the Department of War. We are pleased that the recent bipartisan Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Defense Appropriations Bill contains a program increase of \$10 million in the Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment Support account for critical mineral extraction from bauxite residue. As members of the New York congressional delegation, we fought hard to support this increase in funding as a federal complement to existing private sector and state level investments in a state-of-the-art gallium processing facility to be headquartered in the Mohawk Valley, in close proximity to AFRL/RI and other regional partners already working hard to establish domestic gallium production.

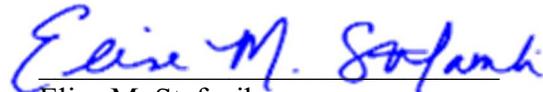
We trust that you will consider such a partnership with New York to be a chief component in your strategy to rebuild the United States critical mineral industrial base. Central New York and the Mohawk Valley are home to some of our country's top military and civilian technology talent, as well as public and private research institutions capable of supporting the workforce necessary to advance U.S. refining capabilities and establish a domestic gallium supply chain. The existing infrastructure and manufacturing base in the region, as well as advanced work with specialty materials like gallium, makes Central New York and the Mohawk Valley the perfect place to establish a large-scale alumina refinery that could support a resilient domestic gallium supply chain, in partnership with allied nations, including Canada.

We urge you to capitalize on the advanced work with specialty materials like gallium already taking place in the Mohawk Valley and partnerships with regional assets like AFRL/RI to support a robust, domestic gallium processing facility to address the urgent need for this critical material. We stand ready to support your efforts to do so.

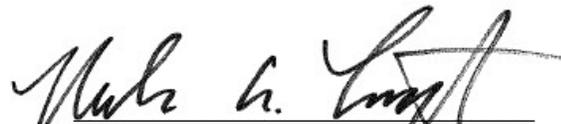
We look forward to working with you and your team on the next steps in the process. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there's anything our offices can do to further support your work to strengthen U.S. capacity for gallium and our national security. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

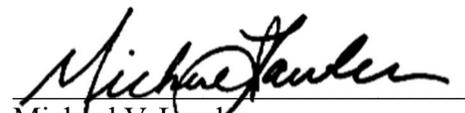

John W. Mannion
Member of Congress

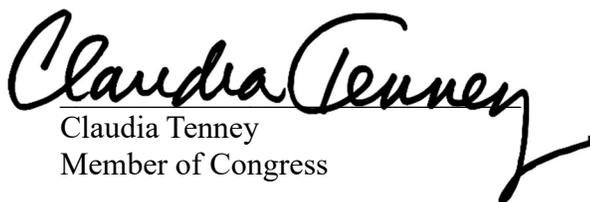

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