

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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## Submitter Information

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## General Comment

Children are mining Rare Earth Elements for Electric Cars and wind Turbines, while Electric car and windfarm companies are mining government subsidies for the rich , while American poor and hard working taxpayers are put out of jobs from regulations.

New report March, Tuesday TV, news , a team of reporters went to Africa and confirmed many past reports of Amnesty International which revealed that cobalt mined by children which goes into Rare Earth Elements for Electric cars and wind Turbines , etc. has found child labor being used in the dangerous mining of cobalt in the Democratic Republic of Congo. International Labor Organization reports children in mining can be seen in small-scale mines of Asia, Africa, Latin America, and even parts of Europe. Child labor and environmental concerns of mining and producing toxic minerals in key countries.

Africa: One of the largest companies is Congo Dongfang Mining International (CDM). subsidiary of China-based Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Company Ltd (Huayou Cobalt), which buys cobalt from traders, CDM then smelts the ore at its plant in the DRC before exporting it to China. There, Huayou Cobalt further smelts and sells the processed cobalt to battery component manufacturers in China and South Korea. In turn, these companies sell to battery manufacturers. 90 percent of China's cobalt originates in Congo, where Chinese firms dominate the mining industry. CDM reported exporting 72,000 tons of industrial and artisanal cobalt from Congo,

Africa : Research by SOMO reveals that serious human rights violations and environmental pollution are happening in Democratic Republic of Congo as a result of cobalt mining, including water pollution and forced evictions. SOMO's research shows that these problems are structural.

Chile: Most of the world's lithium production is in South America, Australia lithium production

exports to China and Asian countries. Chile is number 2 producer of lithium , Bolivia negotiated with Japanese, French, and Korean firms for extraction. Zimbabwe, Africa is 5th producer of lithium. Supply chain is very complicated and possible veiled, so areas of production might be camouflaged. Key challenges for human rights groups is traceability. Once mined, minerals navigate a complex supply chain which is then transported overseas.

South America: Why do French want electric cars? French companies are in south America mining, they have already turned to alternative opportunities in Argentina (which, along with Chile, is currently the world's major lithium supplier. They might still consider a joint venture for battery production, according to the French ambassador to Bolivia, French company has deposits in Salta province covering nearly 200 square miles, same area where children of South American work mines and Flamingos as endangered species are being killed and habitat destroyed by Lithium miners. Lithium, Cobalt, should be added to conflict minerals law of 2010 ? UN and international rights groups should apply conflict-sensitive approaches in Rare Earth mining sector preventing children and poor families from working in mines in Chile.

And need US tariffs ; Section 232 investigation is conducted under the authority of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to better understanding of the social and environmental issues of Rare earth elements (REEs) due to monopolistic supply conditions, environmentally unsustainable mining practices.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates 40,000 children are working in DRC mines, but the Good Shepherd Foundation, which works on the ground in the country, believe the number is higher. little evidence of anyone on the ground helping these children.

Many acknowledged problems with the Rare Earth supply chain but very hard to think about lithium batteries for electric cars and Wind Turbines without child mining cobalt and Lithium.

Lithium in the Salar de Cauchar-Olaroz, in the province of Jujuy, is a project developed by a joint venture . In total, there are 53 projects in the exploration or project feasibility phases. Mining companies work in the Cauchari-Olaroz lithium in the Argentine province of Jujuy. Cauchari-Olaroz is in one of the richest lithium deposits on earth.

Humans in Salt mining in south America is hard work for very little money. Salt workers toil under the hot sun without any protection. The boys generally dig the pits Girls, generally accompanied by their mothers, help pile the sand, put it in bags and transport it. Children in mining unstable underground structures, heavy tools and equipment, the toxic and often explosive chemicals, and the exposure to extremes of heat and cold.

indigenous peoples were incorporated into Argentina as 'subjugated peoples and insecure occupiers' of their own lands.