



## ***H.R. 10346, Stop China's Exploitation of Congolese Children and Adult Forced Labor through Cobalt Mining Act***

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### **Background:**

- Cobalt is an **essential component** of most lithium-ion batteries - components in smartphones, laptops, and electric vehicles.
- **Chinese entities** reportedly have ownership stakes in **15 of the 19** cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- **15%-30%** of cobalt produced in the DRC comes from artisanal and small-scale mining, and an estimated **40,000** of the **255,000 miners** in artisanal and small-scale mining in the DRC **are children**.
- Section 307 of The Tariff Act of 1930 **prohibits the importation** of any products made with forced labor.
- Worldwide demand is expected to increase over **1,000%** for lithium and **600%** for cobalt by 2040.

### ***H.R. 10346, Stop China's Exploitation of Congolese Children and Adult Forced Labor through Cobalt Mining Act:***

- Requires the interagency Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force (FLETF) to identify and address instances of **forced labor** in **cobalt supply chains** from the **DRC**.
- Identifies what **products** and priority **sectors** the U.S. government should prioritize for enforcement of its **Section 307 prohibition**.
- **Considers the risk of transshipment through third countries or downstream products** containing cobalt mined by forced labor and denied entry to the United States that may potentially reenter the U.S.
- Also requires **transparent information sharing** with Congress on what actions U.S. Customs and Border Protection has taken to enforce Section 307 and if additional improvements are needed.