Mr. CANNON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

In the first place, I believe that what the gentleman was just talking about was metallurgical-grade silica and different from the summary we've just had.

I think, though, in response to his main argument, it is an amazing comment on the bulk of this bill that the producers of industrial minerals prefer to be under the new regime than to be under the uncertainty that would be created. They need certainty to develop minerals over 50 years instead of 10 years. And so while the gentleman's comment is well taken, I would suggest to him that the industry actually prefers my amendment, regardless of the fact that it incurs these other burdens.

And, finally, I would take exception to the reference of this as a scam. The fact that we don't have tax dollars coming to the Treasury based upon reserves that are being developed does not mean that Americans aren't better off because they have lower prices for paper, which requires kaolin, a locatable clay that makes paper cheaper.

So this is a matter of policy; it is not a matter of scams. And I urge my colleagues to recognize that, to recognize the burdens that this would create on very common products that we produce with these locatable minerals, and to vote in support of my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time and merely would restate what I said earlier about the millions of dollars in litigation that the American people have shelled out to determine just what uncommon varieties are. And, therefore, the gentleman from Utah's amendment would merely continue allowing, without royalties being paid and allow being mined for free, these uncommon varieties of sand, stone and gravel being mined from Federal lands.

So I would urge opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. PEARCE

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 110–416.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 7 offered by Mr. PEARCE:

Add at the end the following:

TITLE ____—MINERAL COMMODITY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

SEC. __01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as ''Resources Origin and Commodity Knowledge Act''.

SEC. __02. FINDINGS, PURPOSE, AND POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Mineral commodities are essential to the United States economy.

(2) The United States is the world's leading user of mineral commodities.

(3) Mineral commodities processed domestically accounted for $478,000,000,000 in the United States economy in 2005.

(4) The value of imports of raw and processed mineral commodities totaled $103,000,000,000 in 2005.

(5) The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve uses mineral commodity information data and reports to calculate the indexes of industrial production, capacity, and capacity utilization, which are among the most widely followed monthly indicators of the United States economy.

(6) Manufacturers and consumers of mineral commodities in the United States depended on foreign countries for 100 percent of 16 mineral commodities and for more than 50 percent of 42 mineral commodities that are critical to the United States economy.

(7) The Department of Defense requires mineral commodity information on strategic minerals to manage the National Defense Stockpile.

(8) Mineral specialists assist the Department of State fulfill United States obligations under the Clean Diamond Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.) and as a signatory to the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme, which is a multinational effort to stop the flow of conflict diamonds.

(9) New and innovative uses of minerals are vital to maintaining the high quality of both the natural environment and human environment in the United States.

(10) Knowledge and understanding of mineral mining, processing, and usage, both domestically and internationally, is important for maintaining the national security and economic security of the United States.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purpose of this title is to create the Mineral Commodity Information Administration to ensure information vital to the United States economy, domestic security, and the high quality of life enjoyed by all residents of the United States continues to be provided to the many customers that rely upon the data.

(c) POLICY.—The Congress declares that—

(1) it is in the national interest to maintain and disseminate information on domestically produced mineral commodities, regardless of ownership of the reserves and resources involved; and

(2) it is in the national interest to maintain and disseminate information on international mineral commodities, reserves, and resources, international mineral industry activities, and international mineral commodity markets.

SEC. __03. ESTABLISHMENT OF MINERAL COMMODITY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Mineral Commodity Information Administration, which shall be under the general direction and supervision of the Secretary of the Interior and shall not be affiliated with or be within any other agency or bureau of the Department of the Interior.

(b) ADMINISTRATOR.—The management of the Administration shall be vested in an Administrator, who shall be appointed from by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, from among individuals who have outstanding qualifications with a broad background and substantial experience in the mineral industries and in the management of mineral resources.

(c) OTHER OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Administration an Associate Administrator and 4 Assistant Administrators who shall perform, in accordance with applicable law, such functions as the Administrator shall assign to them in accordance with this title. The functions the Administrator shall assign to the Assistant Administrators shall include the following functions:

(A) Commodity information and analysis, including development and maintenance of—

(i) historical and current mineral commodity information, including the degree of import dependence of the United States;

(ii) international mineral commodity, reserve, and resource information;

(iii) domestic mineral commodity, reserve, and resource information by State, county, and region;

(iv) material flow and recycling analysis, showing disposition in the United States of mined materials into stocks in use, waste, and residuals; and

(v) ongoing analysis of United States mineral commodity exports, and analysis of imports of mineral commodities and processed materials of mineral origin that are destined for consumption in the United States, categorized by the country of origin.

(B) Global mineral supply analysis for critical commodities of greatest long-term concern, including collecting and developing—

(i) location, reserve, resource, technology, and economic data for major discovered deposits;

(ii) engineering and cost, mini-feasibility studies on the most significant deposits; and

(iii) supply analyses combining the engineering and economic data on groups of deposits.

(C) Mineral materials technology assessment including tracking worldwide research, development, and utilization of advanced technologies that will permit discovery of new deposits, mining and processing of minerals from lower-grade deposits, and recovery of minerals from waste streams.

(D) Mineral industry analysis, including the continuing assessment and analysis of events, trends, and issues affecting the minerals sector of the domestic economy, including exploration spending and activity, mineral production trends, mineral stocks and inventories, merger and acquisitions activity, and labor and workforce trends.

(E) Data acquisition and analysis, including management of data collection, statistical analysis, analytical forecasting and modeling, and regular data quality assessments.

(F) Information systems and services, including information technology management, publications and production dissemination, and library services.

(G) External affairs, including congressional and legislative liaison, communications, and public affairs, and international and intergovernmental affairs.

(H) Budget, financial, and human resource management, including budget and financial management, human capital management, employee training, professional development, procurement and contract management, and small business support.

(2) TRANSFER OF EXISTING POSITIONS.—Within 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall transfer to the Administrator the following positions: