

## Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3496

To establish and implement a multi-year Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Strategy to reduce the negative environmental and social impacts of illicit gold mining in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 16, 2025

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. Kaine, Mr. CRUZ, and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

\_\_\_\_\_ (legislative day, \_\_\_\_\_), 2026

Reported by Mr. RISCH, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

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# A BILL

To establish and implement a multi-year Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Strategy to reduce the negative environmental and social impacts of illicit gold mining in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “United States Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Act”.

4 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
5 this Act is as follows:

See. 1. Short title; table of contents.

See. 2. Findings.

See. 3. Definitions.

See. 4. Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Strategy.

See. 5. Classified briefing on illicit gold mining in Venezuela.

See. 6. Investigation of the illicit gold trade in Venezuela.

See. 7. Leveraging international support.

See. 8. Public private partnership to build responsible gold value chains.

See. 9. Rule of construction regarding not authorizing the use of military force.

See. 10. Consideration of certain transactions involving precious metals for purposes of identifying primary money laundering concerns.

**6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The illicit mining, trafficking, and commercialization of gold in the Western Hemisphere—

10 (A) negatively affects the region’s economic  
11 and social dynamics;

12 (B) strengthens transnational criminal organizations and other international illicit actors;  
13 and

15 (C) has a deleterious impact on the environment, indigenous peoples, and food security.

17 (2) A lack of economic opportunities and the weak rule of law promote illicit activities, such as illicit gold mining, which increases the vulnerability of individuals in mining areas, including indigenous

1 communities, which have been subjected to trafficking in persons, other human rights abuses, and  
2 population displacement in relation to mining activ-  
3 ity, particularly in the artisanal and small-scale min-  
4 ing sector.

12 (4) Illicit gold supply chains are international in  
13 nature and frequently involve—

14 (A) the smuggling of gold and supplies,  
15 such as mercury;

(B) trade-based money laundering; and

17 (C) other cross-border flows of illicit as-  
18 sets

19 (5) In Latin America, mineral traders and ex-  
20 porters, local processors, and shell companies linked  
21 to transnational criminal networks and illegally  
22 armed groups all play a key role in the trafficking,  
23 laundering, and commercialization of illicit gold from  
24 the region.

1                             (6) According to a report on illegally mined  
2                             gold in Latin America by the Global Initiative  
3                             Against Transnational Organized Crime—

4                             (A) more than 70 percent of the gold  
5                             mined in several Latin American countries,  
6                             such as Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, is mined  
7                             through illicit means; and

8                             (B) about 80 percent of the gold mined in  
9                             Venezuela is mined through illicit means and a  
10                            large percentage of such gold is sold—

11                             (i) to Mibiturven, a joint venture op-  
12                             erated by the Maduro regime composed of  
13                             Minerven, a gold processor that has been  
14                             designated by the Office of Foreign Assets  
15                             Control of the Department of the Treas-  
16                             try, pursuant to Executive Order 13850  
17                             (relating to blocking property of additional  
18                             persons contributing to the situation in  
19                             Venezuela), and Marilyn's Proje Yatirim,  
20                             S.A., which is a Turkish company; or

21                             (ii) through other trafficking and  
22                             commercialization networks from which the  
23                             Maduro regime benefits financially.

24                             (7) Illegal armed groups and foreign terrorist  
25                             organizations, such as the Ejército de Liberación

1       Nacional (National Liberation Army—ELN), work  
2       with transnational criminal organizations in Ven-  
3       ezuela that participate in the illicit mining, traf-  
4       ficking, and commercialization of gold.

5           (8) Transnational criminal organizations based  
6       in Venezuela, such as El Tren de Aragua, have ex-  
7       panded their role in the illicit mining, trafficking,  
8       and commercialization of gold to increase their  
9       criminal profits.

10          (9) Nicaragua's gold exports during 2023 were  
11       valued at an estimated \$1,240,000,000, of which—

12               (A) gold valued at an estimated  
13       \$637,000,000 was shipped to the United States;

14               (B) gold valued at an estimated  
15       \$353,000,000 was shipped to Canada;

16               (C) gold valued at an estimated  
17       \$244,000,000 was shipped to Switzerland; and

18               (D) gold valued at an estimated  
19       \$6,560,000 was shipped to Italy.

20          (10) U.S. Customs and Border Protection has  
21       recognized that illegal logging is the world's most  
22       profitable natural resource crime and that profits  
23       from illegal logging finance illegal mining.

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25       In this Act:

1                             (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
2                             TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
3                             mittees” means—

4                             (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
5                             the Senate;

6                             (B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
7                             Senate;

8                             (C) the Committee on Banking, Housing,  
9                             and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

10                            (D) the Select Committee on Intelligence  
11                             of the Senate;

12                            (E) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
13                             the House of Representatives;

14                            (F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
15                             House of Representatives;

16                            (G) the Committee on Financial Services  
17                             of the House of Representatives; and

18                            (H) the Permanent Select Committee on  
19                             Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

20                            (2) ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING;  
21                            ASM.—The terms “artisanal and small-scale mining”  
22                             and “ASM” refer to a form of mining common in  
23                             the developing world that—

1 (A) typically employs rudimentary, simple,  
2 and low-cost extractive technologies and manual  
3 labor-intensive techniques;

4 (B) is frequently subject to limited regula-  
5 tion; and

6 (C) often features harsh and dangerous  
7 working conditions.

## 3 SEC. 4. LEGAL GOLD AND MINING PARTNERSHIP STRAT- 4 EGY.

5 (a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—The Secretary, in coordi-  
6 nation with the heads of relevant Federal departments and  
7 agencies, shall develop a comprehensive, multi-year strat-  
8 egy, which shall be known as the Legal Gold and Mining  
9 Partnership Strategy, to combat illicit gold mining in the  
10 Western Hemisphere.

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—The Strategy shall include policies,  
12 programs, and initiatives—

(1) to interrupt the linkages between gold mining, including ASM, and illicit actors that profit from illicit mining in the Western Hemisphere;

23 (3) to counter the financing and enrichment of  
24 actors involved in the illicit mining, trafficking, and

1       commercialization of gold, and the abetting of their  
2       activities by—

3                   (A) promoting the exercise of due diligence  
4                   and the use of responsible sourcing methods in  
5                   the purchase and trade of ASM;

6                   (B) preventing and prohibiting foreign per-  
7       sons who control commodity trading chains  
8       linked to illicit actors from enjoying the benefits  
9       of access to the territory, markets or financial  
10      system of the United States, and halting any  
11      such ongoing activity by such foreign persons;

12                  (C) combating related impunity afforded to  
13       illicit actors by addressing corruption in govern-  
14       ment institutions and interrupting linkages be-  
15       tween corrupt officials and illicit actors that ex-  
16       ploit ASM miners;

17                  (D) supporting the capacity of financial in-  
18       telligence units, customs agencies, and other  
19       government institutions focused on anti-money  
20       laundering initiatives and combating the finance-  
21       ing of criminal activities and terrorism to ex-  
22       ercise oversight consistent with the threats posed  
23       by illicit gold mining; and

24                  (E) working with the governments and ap-  
25       propriate institutions of countries that host gold

1           refineries or processing centers to deter the im-  
2           portation of illicit gold and implement greater  
3           due diligence practices;

4           (4) to build the capacity of foreign civilian law  
5           enforcement institutions in the Western Hemisphere  
6           to effectively counter—

7               (A) linkages between illicit gold mining, il-  
8           licit actors, money laundering, and other finan-  
9           cial crimes, including trade-based money laun-  
10           dering;

11               (B) linkages between illicit gold mining, il-  
12           licit actors, trafficking in persons, and forced or  
13           coerced labor, including sex work and child  
14           labor;

15               (C) linkages between illicit gold mining, il-  
16           licit actors, and the illegal timber trade;

17               (D) the cross-border trafficking of illicit  
18           gold, and the mercury, cyanide, explosives, and  
19           other hazardous materials used in illicit gold  
20           mining, particularly those originating in China  
21           or trafficked by transnational criminal organi-  
22           zations; and

23               (E) surveillance and investigation of illicit  
24           and related activities that are related to or are  
25           indicators of illicit gold mining activities;

18 (B) supporting the formulation of strate-  
19 gies to ensure the compliance of reporting insti-  
20 tutions involved in the mining sector and to  
21 promote transparency in mining-sector trans-  
22 actions;

23 (7) to support foreign government efforts—

24 (A) to facilitate licensing and formalization  
25 processes for ASM miners;

4 (e) to implement existing environmental  
5 standards;

10 (9) to support the establishment of gold com-  
11 modity supply chain due diligence, responsible  
12 sourcing, tracing and tracking capacities, and stand-  
13 ards-compliant commodity certification systems in  
14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, in-  
15 cluding efforts recommended in the OECD Due Dil-  
16 igence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of  
17 Minerals from Conflict Affected and High Risk  
18 Areas, Third Edition (2016);

19 (10) to engage with civil society to reduce the  
20 negative environmental impacts of ASM, particu-  
21 larly—

22 (A) the use of mercury in preliminary re-  
23 fining.

24 (B) the destruction of tropical forests.

(C) the construction of illegal and unregulated dams and the resulting valley floods;

3 (D) the pollution of water resources and  
4 soil; and

(E) the release of dust, which can contain toxic chemicals and heavy metals that can cause severe health problems;

8 (11) to aid and encourage ASM miners—

9 (A) to formalize their business activities,  
10 including through skills training, technical and  
11 business assistance, and access to financing,  
12 loans, and credit;

13 (B) to utilize mercury-free gold refining  
14 technologies and mining methods that minimize  
15 deforestation, air pollution, and water and soil  
16 contamination.

17 (C) to reduce the costs associated with for-  
18 malization and compliance with mining regula-  
19 tions; and

20 (D) to fully break away from the influence  
21 of illicit actors who leverage the control of terri-  
22 tory and use violence to extort miners and push  
23 them into illicit arrangements.

24 (12) to interrupt the illicit gold trade in Nica-  
25 raona—including through the use of targeted United

1        States measures against the government led by  
2        President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Rosario  
3        Murillo and their collaborators pursuant to Executive  
4        Order 14088 (relating to taking additional steps  
5        to address the national emergency with respect to  
6        the situation in Nicaragua), which was issued on October 24, 2022;

8                (13) to assist local journalists with investigations of illicit mining, trafficking, and commercialization of gold and its supplies in the Western Hemisphere;

12               (14) to promote responsible sourcing and due diligence at all levels of gold supply chains, including through the use of existing widely adopted, industry-standard responsible sourcing and due diligence standards; and

17               (15) to prevent the intentional misinvoicing of the origins of gold shipments at transshipment points.

20        (e) ASSESSMENT OF CHALLENGES.—The Strategy  
21 shall include an assessment of the challenges posed by,  
22 and policy recommendations to address—

23               (1) linkages between ASM sector production  
24 and trade, particularly relating to gold, to the activities of illicit actors, including linkages that help to

1 finance or enrich such illicit actors or abet their ac-  
2 tivities;

3 (2) linkages between illicit or grey market  
4 trade, and markets in gold and other metals or min-  
5 erals and legal trade and commerce in such comod-  
6 ities, notably with respect to activities that abet the  
7 entry of such commodities into legal commerce, in-  
8 eluding—

9 (A) illicit cross-border trafficking, includ-  
10 ing with respect to goods, persons and illegal  
11 narcotics;

12 (B) money-laundering;

13 (C) the financing of illicit actors or their  
14 activities; and

15 (D) the extralegal entry into the United  
16 States of—

17 (i) metals or minerals, whether of  
18 legal foreign origin or not; and

19 (ii) the proceeds of such metals or  
20 minerals;

21 (3) linkages between the illicit mining, traf-  
22 ficking, and commercialization of gold, diamonds,  
23 and precious metals and stones, and the financial  
24 and political activities of the regime of Nicolás  
25 Maduro of Venezuela;

1 (4) factors that—

2 (A) produce linkages between ASM miners  
3 and illicit actors, prompting some ASM miners  
4 to utilize mining practices that are environ-  
5 mentally damaging and unsustainable, notably  
6 mining or related ore processing practices  
7 that—

(i) involve the use of elemental mercury; or

10 (ii) result in labor, health, environ-  
11 mental, and safety code infractions and  
12 workplace hazards; and

13 (B) lead some ASM miners to operate in  
14 the extralegal or poorly regulated informal sec-  
15 tor, and often prevent such miners from im-  
16 proving the socioeconomic status of themselves  
17 and their families and communities, or hinder  
18 their ability to formalize their operations, en-  
19 hance their technical and business capacities,  
20 and access finance of fair market prices for  
21 their output;

22 (5) mining-related trafficking in persons and  
23 forced or coerced labor, including sex work and child  
24 labor; and

1 (6) the use of elemental mercury and cyanide in  
2 ASM operations, including the technical aims and  
3 scope of such usage and its impact on human health  
4 and the environment, including flora, fauna, water  
5 resources, soil, and air quality.

6 (d) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.—The Strategy shall de-  
7 scribe—

8 (1) existing foreign assistance programs that  
9 address elements of the Strategy; and

10 (2) additional foreign assistance resources need-  
11 ed to fully implement the Strategy.

12 (e) **BEST PRACTICES.**—The Strategy shall, to the ex-  
13 tent practicable, avoid duplication of effort in the develop-  
14 ment of due diligence and responsible sourcing standards,  
15 including through the use of existing widely adopted in-  
16 dustry standards.

17 (f) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the  
18 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall sub-  
19 mit the Strategy to the appropriate congressional commit-  
20 tees.

21 (g) SEMIANNUAL BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 180  
22 days after submission of the Strategy, and semiannually  
23 thereafter for the following 3 years, the Secretary, or the  
24 Secretary's designee, shall provide a briefing to the appro-  
25 priate congressional committees regarding—

1                   (1) the implementation of the strategy, includ-  
2                   ing efforts to leverage international support and de-  
3                   velop a public-private partnership to build respon-  
4                   sible gold value chains with other governments;

5                   (2) revisions to the Strategy that are needed to  
6                   better align the Strategy to new or emerging chal-  
7                   lenges in combating illicit gold mining; and

8                   (3) recommendations from the Strategy that  
9                   can be applied to combat illicit gold mining on a  
10                   global scale.

11 **SEC. 5. CLASSIFIED BRIEFING ON ILLICIT GOLD MINING IN**  
12 **VENEZUELA.**

13                   Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-  
14                   ment of this Act, the Secretary, or the Secretary's des-  
15                   igee, in coordination with the Director of National Intel-  
16                   ligence, or the Director's designee, shall provide a classi-  
17                   fied briefing to the appropriate congressional committees,  
18                   the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and  
19                   the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the  
20                   House of Representatives that describes—

21                   (1) the activities related to illicit gold mining,  
22                   including the illicit mining, trafficking, and commer-  
23                   cialization of gold, inside Venezuelan territory ear-  
24                   ried out by illicit actors, including defectors from the  
25                   Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)

1 and members of the National Liberation Army  
2 (ELN); and

3 (2) Venezuela's illicit gold trade with foreign  
4 governments, including the Government of the Re-  
5 public of Turkey and the Government of the Islamic  
6 Republic of Iran.

7 **SEC. 6. INVESTIGATION OF THE ILLICIT GOLD TRADE IN**  
8 **VENEZUELA.**

9 The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of  
10 the Treasury, the Attorney General, and allied and part-  
11 ner governments in the Western Hemisphere, shall—

12 (1) lead a coordinated international effort to  
13 carry out financial investigations to identify and  
14 track assets taken from the people and institutions  
15 in Venezuela that are linked to money laundering  
16 and illicit activities, including mining-related activi-  
17 ties, by sharing financial investigations intelligence,  
18 as appropriate and as permitted by law; and

19 (2) provide technical assistance to help eligible  
20 governments in Latin America establish legislative  
21 and regulatory frameworks capable of imposing and  
22 effectively implementing targeted sanctions on—

23 (A) officials of the Maduro regime who are  
24 directly engaged in the illicit mining, traf-  
25 ficking, and commercialization of gold; and

(B) foreign persons engaged in the laundering of illicit gold assets linked to designated terrorist and drug trafficking organizations.

## 4 SEC. 7. LEVERAGING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

5 In implementing the Strategy pursuant to section 4,  
6 the President should direct United States representatives  
7 accredited to relevant multilateral institutions and devel-  
8 opment banks and United States ambassadors in the  
9 Western Hemisphere to use the influence of the United  
10 States to foster international cooperation to achieve the  
11 objectives of this Act, including—

12 (1) marshaling resources and political support;  
13 and

14 (2) encouraging the development of policies and  
15 consultation with key stakeholders to accomplish  
16 such objectives and provisions.

## **SEC. 8. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD RESPONSIBLE GOLD VALUE CHAINS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate  
20 with the Governments of Colombia, of Ecuador, of Peru,  
21 and of other democratically elected governments in the re-  
22 gion determined by the Secretary to establish a public pri-  
23 vate partnership to support programming in participating  
24 countries that will—

1                   (1) support the ASM gold mining sector's for-  
2                   malization and compliance with the existing environ-  
3                   mental and labor standards in participating coun-  
4                   tries;

5 (2) increase awareness of access to financing  
6 for ASM gold miners who are taking significant  
7 steps to formalize their operations and comply with  
8 the existing labor and environmental standards in  
9 participating countries;

(3) enhance the traceability and support the establishment of a certification process for ASM gold;

12 (4) support a public relations campaign to pro-  
13 mote responsibly sourced gold;

14 (5) include representatives of local civil society  
15 to work towards soliciting the free and informed  
16 consent of those living on lands with mining poten-  
17 tial;

18 (6) facilitate contact between vendors of respon-  
19 sibly sourced gold and United States companies; and

1 **SEC. 9. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING NOT AU-**  
2 **THORIZING THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE.**

3 Nothing in this Act may be construed as authorizing  
4 the use of military force or the introduction of United  
5 States forces into hostilities.

6 **SEC. 10. CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS IN-**  
7 **VOLVING PRECIOUS METALS FOR PURPOSES**  
8 **OF IDENTIFYING PRIMARY MONEY LAUN-**  
9 **DERING CONCERNs.**

10 Section 5318A(e)(2) of title 31, United States Code,  
11 is amended—

12 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

13 (A) by redesignating clauses (iii) through  
14 (vii) as clauses (iv) through (viii), respectively;  
15 and

16 (B) by inserting after clause (ii) the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(iii) the extent to which the jurisdic-  
19 tion or financial institutions operating in  
20 that jurisdiction facilitate transactions in-  
21 volving the mining, sale, or trade of pre-  
22 cious metals subject to any sanctions im-  
23 posed by the United States;”; and

24 (2) in subparagraph (B)—

25 (A) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii)  
26 as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively; and

1 (B) by inserting after clause (i) the fol-  
2 lowing:

## 8 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

9           (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the  
10   *“United States Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Act”.*

11 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—*The table of contents for*  
12 *this Act is as follows:*

## Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

## Sec. 2. *Findings.*

### Sec. 3. Definitions.

#### *Sec. 4. Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Strategy.*

## *Sec. 5. Classified briefing on illicit gold mining in Venezuela.*

## *Sec. 6. Investigation of the illicit gold trade in Venezuela.*

## *Sec. 7. Leveraging international support.*

## Sec. 8. Public-private partnership to build responsible gold value chains.

*Sec. 9. Rule of construction regarding not authorizing the use of military force.*

*Sec. 10. Consideration of certain transactions involving precious metals for purposes of identifying primary money laundering concerns.*

## 13 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

14 *Congress makes the following findings:*

(C) has a deleterious impact on the environment, indigenous peoples, and food security.

25 (B) trade-based money laundering; and

### 1 (C) other cross-border flows of illicit assets.

(B) about 80 percent of the gold mined in Venezuela is mined through illicit means and a large percentage of such gold is sold—

1 Venezuela), and Marilyn's Proje Yatirim,  
2 S.A., which is a Turkish company; or

(ii) through other trafficking and commercialization networks from which authorities in Venezuela benefit financially.

(7) *Illegal armed groups and foreign terrorist organizations, such as the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army—ELN), work with transnational criminal organizations in Venezuela that participate in the illicit mining, trafficking, and commercialization of gold.*

21 (B) gold valued at an estimated  
22 \$353,000,000 was shipped to Canada;

23 (C) gold valued at an estimated  
24 \$244 000 000 was shipped to Switzerland; and

(D) gold valued at an estimated \$6,560,000  
was shipped to Italy.

## 7 SEC. 3. *DEFINITIONS.*

## 8 *In this Act:*

22 (F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
23 House of Representatives:

12 (C) often features harsh and dangerous  
13 working conditions.

21 (4) *LEGAL GOLD AND MINING PARTNERSHIP*  
22 *STRATEGY; STRATEGY.*—The terms “Legal Gold and  
23 *Mining Partnership Strategy” and “Strategy” mean  
24 *the strategy developed pursuant to section 4.**

9 SEC. 4. **LEGAL GOLD AND MINING PARTNERSHIP STRAT-**  
10 **EGY.**

11 (a) *STRATEGY REQUIRED.*—The Secretary, in coordi-  
12 nation with the heads of relevant Federal departments and  
13 agencies, shall develop a comprehensive, multi-year strat-  
14 egy, which shall be known as the *Legal Gold and Mining*  
15 *Partnership Strategy*, to combat illicit gold mining in the  
16 *Western Hemisphere*.

17       (b) ELEMENTS.—The Strategy shall include policies,  
18 programs, and initiatives—

19 (1) to interrupt the linkages between gold min-  
20 ing, including ASM, and illicit actors that profit  
21 from illicit mining in the Western Hemisphere;

22 (2) to deter ASM in environmentally protected  
23 areas, such as national parks and conservation zones,  
24 to prevent mining-related contamination of critical  
25 natural resources, such as water resources, soil, trop-

1       *ical forests, and other flora and fauna, and aerosol*  
2       *contamination linked to detrimental health impacts;*

3           *(3) to counter the financing and enrichment of*  
4       *actors involved in the illicit mining, trafficking, and*  
5       *commercialization of gold, and the abetting of their*  
6       *activities by—*

7           *(A) promoting the exercise of due diligence*  
8       *and the use of responsible sourcing methods in*  
9       *the purchase and trade of ASM;*

10          *(B) preventing and prohibiting foreign per-*  
11       *sons who control commodity trading chains*  
12       *linked to illicit actors from enjoying the benefits*  
13       *of access to the territory, markets or financial*  
14       *system of the United States, and halting any*  
15       *such ongoing activity by such foreign persons;*

16          *(C) combating related impunity afforded to*  
17       *illicit actors by addressing corruption in govern-*  
18       *ment institutions and interrupting linkages be-*  
19       *tween corrupt officials and illicit actors that ex-*  
20       *ploit ASM miners;*

21          *(D) supporting the capacity of financial in-*  
22       *telligence units, customs agencies, and other gov-*  
23       *ernment institutions focused on anti-money*  
24       *laundering initiatives and combating the financ-*  
25       *ing of criminal activities and terrorism to exer-*

1                   *cise oversight consistent with the threats posed by*  
2                   *illicit gold mining; and*

3                   *(E) working with the governments and ap-*  
4                   *propriate institutions of countries that host gold*  
5                   *refineries or processing centers to deter the im-*  
6                   *portation of illicit gold and implement greater*  
7                   *due diligence practices;*

8                   *(4) to build the capacity of foreign civilian law*  
9                   *enforcement institutions in the Western Hemisphere*  
10                   *to effectively counter—*

11                   *(A) linkages between illicit gold mining, il-*  
12                   *licit actors, money laundering, and other finan-*  
13                   *cial crimes, including trade-based money laun-*  
14                   *dering;*

15                   *(B) linkages between illicit gold mining, il-*  
16                   *licit actors, trafficking in persons, and forced or*  
17                   *coerced labor, including sex work and child*  
18                   *labor;*

19                   *(C) linkages between illicit gold mining, il-*  
20                   *licit actors, and the illegal timber trade;*

21                   *(D) the cross-border trafficking of illicit*  
22                   *gold, and the mercury, cyanide, explosives, and*  
23                   *other hazardous materials used in illicit gold*  
24                   *mining, particularly those originating in China*

1           *or trafficked by transnational criminal organiza-*  
2           *tions; and*

3           *(E) surveillance and investigation of illicit*  
4           *and related activities that are related to or are*  
5           *indicators of illicit gold mining activities;*

6           *(5) to ensure the successful implementation of the*  
7           *existing Memoranda of Understanding signed with*  
8           *the Governments of Peru and of Colombia in 2017*  
9           *and 2018, respectively, to expand bilateral coopera-*  
10           *tion to combat illicit gold mining;*

11           *(6) to work with governments in the Western*  
12           *Hemisphere, bolster the effectiveness of anti-money*  
13           *laundering efforts to combat the financing of illicit*  
14           *actors in Latin America and the Caribbean and*  
15           *counter the laundering of proceeds related to illicit*  
16           *gold mining by—*

17           *(A) fostering international and regional co-*  
18           *operation and facilitating intelligence sharing,*  
19           *as appropriate, to identify and disrupt financial*  
20           *flows related to the illicit gold mining, traf-*  
21           *ficking, and commercialization of gold and other*  
22           *minerals and illicit metals; and*

23           *(B) supporting the formulation of strategies*  
24           *to ensure the compliance of reporting institutions*

1           *involved in the mining sector and to promote*  
2           *transparency in mining-sector transactions;*  
3           *(7) to support foreign government efforts—*  
4            *(A) to facilitate licensing and formalization*  
5           *processes for ASM miners;*  
6            *(B) to develop mechanisms to support regu-*  
7           *lated cultural artisanal mining and artisanal*  
8           *mining as a job growth area; and*  
9            *(C) to implement existing environmental*  
10           *standards;*  
11           *(8) to engage the mining industry and relevant*  
12           *trade or industry associations to encourage the build-*  
13           *ing of technical expertise in best practices and access*  
14           *to new technologies;*  
15           *(9) to support the establishment of gold com-*  
16           *modity supply chain due diligence, responsible*  
17           *sourcing, tracing and tracking capacities, and stand-*  
18           *ards-compliant commodity certification systems in*  
19           *countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, in-*  
20           *cluding efforts recommended in the OECD Due Dili-*  
21           *gence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of*  
22           *Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High Risk Areas,*  
23           *Third Edition (2016);*

(10) to engage with civil society to reduce the negative environmental impacts of ASM, particularly—

6 (B) the destruction of tropical forests;

(E) the release of dust, which can contain toxic chemicals and heavy metals that can cause severe health problems;

14 (11) to aid and encourage ASM miners—

19 (B) to utilize mercury-free gold refining  
20 technologies and mining methods that minimize  
21 deforestation, air pollution, and water and soil  
22 contamination;

23 (C) to reduce the costs associated with formalization and compliance with mining regulations; and  
24  
25

23 (15) to engage the private sector to develop in-  
24 dustry-led global processing initiatives that aim to re-  
25 direct illicit gold flows away from bad actors; and

(16) to prevent the intentional misinvoicing of the origins of gold shipments at transshipment points.

(A) *illicit cross-border trafficking, including with respect to goods, persons and illegal narcotics;*

## 18 (B) money-laundering:

19 (C) the financing of illicit actors or their  
20 activities; and

21 (D) the extralegal entry into the United  
22 States of—

23 (i) metals or minerals, whether of legal  
24 foreign origin or not; and

#### 7 (4) factors that—

8 (A) produce linkages between ASM miners  
9 and illicit actors, prompting some ASM miners  
10 to utilize mining practices that are environ-  
11 mentally damaging and unsustainable, notably  
12 mining or related ore processing practices that—

13 (i) involve the use of elemental mer-  
14 cury; or

9           (d) *FOREIGN ASSISTANCE*.—*The Strategy shall de-*  
10 *scribe—*

15 (e) *BEST PRACTICES.*—The Strategy shall, to the ex-  
16 tent practicable, avoid duplication of effort in the develop-  
17 ment of due diligence and responsible sourcing standards,  
18 including through the use of existing widely-adopted indus-  
19 try standards.

20       (f) *SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the*  
21 *date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit*  
22 *the Strategy to the appropriate congressional committees.*

23        (g) *SEMIANNUAL BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 180*  
24 *days after submission of the Strategy, and semiannually*  
25 *thereafter for the following 3 years, the Secretary, or the*

1   Secretary's designee, shall provide a briefing to the appro-  
2   priate congressional committees regarding—

3                   (1) the implementation of the strategy, including  
4                   efforts to leverage international support and develop  
5                   a public-private partnership to build responsible gold  
6                   value chains with other governments;

7                   (2) revisions to the Strategy that are needed to  
8                   better align the Strategy to new or emerging chal-  
9                   lenges in combating illicit gold mining; and

10                  (3) recommendations from the Strategy that can  
11                  be applied to combat illicit gold mining on a global  
12                  scale.

13   **SEC. 5. CLASSIFIED BRIEFING ON ILLICIT GOLD MINING IN**  
14                   **VENEZUELA.**

15                  Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment  
16                  of this Act, the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, in  
17                  coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, or  
18                  the Director's designee, shall provide a classified briefing  
19                  to the appropriate congressional committees, the Select  
20                  Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and the Permanent  
21                  Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Represent-  
22                  atives that describes—

23                  (1) the activities related to illicit gold mining,  
24                  including the illicit mining, trafficking, and commer-  
25                  cialization of gold, inside Venezuelan territory carried

1        *out by illicit actors, including defectors from the Rev-*  
2        *olutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and*  
3        *members of the National Liberation Army (ELN);*  
4        *and*

5            *(2) Venezuela's illicit gold trade with foreign*  
6        *governments, including the Government of the Repub-*  
7        *lic of Turkey and the Government of the Islamic Re-*  
8        *public of Iran.*

9        **SEC. 6. INVESTIGATION OF THE ILLICIT GOLD TRADE IN**  
10                    **VENEZUELA.**

11        *The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of*  
12        *the Treasury, the Attorney General, and allied and partner*  
13        *governments in the Western Hemisphere, shall—*

14            *(1) lead a coordinated international effort to*  
15        *carry out financial investigations to identify and*  
16        *track assets taken from the people and institutions in*  
17        *Venezuela that are linked to money laundering and*  
18        *illicit activities, including mining-related activities,*  
19        *by sharing financial investigations intelligence, as*  
20        *appropriate and as permitted by law; and*

21            *(2) provide technical assistance to help eligible*  
22        *governments in Latin America establish legislative*  
23        *and regulatory frameworks capable of imposing and*  
24        *effectively implementing targeted sanctions on—*

(B) foreign persons engaged in the laundering of illicit gold assets linked to designated terrorist and drug trafficking organizations.

## 7 SEC. 7. LEVERAGING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

8        *In implementing the Strategy pursuant to section 4,*  
9    *the President should direct United States representatives*  
10   *accredited to relevant multilateral institutions and develop-*  
11   *ment banks and United States ambassadors in the Western*  
12   *Hemisphere to use the influence of the United States to fos-*  
13   *ter international cooperation to achieve the objectives of this*  
14   *Act, including—*

15                   (1) *marshaling resources and political support;*  
16                   and  
17                   (2) *encouraging the development of policies and*  
18                   *consultation with key stakeholders to accomplish such*  
19                   *objectives and provisions.*

## 20 SEC. 8. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD RESPONSIBLE GOLD VALUE CHAINS.

22 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall coordinate with  
23 the Governments of Colombia, of Ecuador, of Peru, and of  
24 other democratically-elected governments in the region de-  
25 termined by the Secretary to establish a public-private

1 partnership to support programming in participating  
2 countries that will—

3 (1) support the ASM gold mining sector's for-  
4 malization and compliance with the existing environ-  
5 mental and labor standards in participating coun-  
6 tries;

7 (2) increase awareness of access to financing for  
8 ASM gold miners who are taking significant steps to  
9 formalize their operations and comply with the exist-  
10 ing labor and environmental standards in partici-  
11 pating countries;

12 (3) enhance the traceability and support the es-  
13 tablishment of a certification process for ASM gold;

14 (4) support a public relations campaign to pro-  
15 mote responsibly-sourced gold;

16 (5) include representatives of local civil society  
17 to work towards soliciting the free and informed con-  
18 sent of those living on lands with mining potential;

19 (6) facilitate contact between vendors of respon-  
20 sibly-sourced gold and United States companies; and

21 (7) promote policies and practices in partici-  
22 pating countries that are conducive to the formaliza-  
23 tion of ASM gold mining and promoting adherence of  
24 ASM to internationally-recognized best practices and  
25 standards.

1 **SEC. 9. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING NOT AU-**2 **THORIZING THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE.**

3 *Nothing in this Act may be construed as authorizing*  
4 *the use of military force or the introduction of United States*  
5 *forces into hostilities.*

6 **SEC. 10. CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS IN-**7 **VOLVING PRECIOUS METALS FOR PURPOSES**  
8 **OF IDENTIFYING PRIMARY MONEY LAUN-**  
9 **DERING CONCERNs.**

10 *Section 5318A(c)(2) of title 31, United States Code,*  
11 *is amended—*

12 *(1) in subparagraph (A)—*

13 *(A) by redesignating clauses (iii) through*  
14 *(vii) as clauses (iv) through (viii), respectively;*  
15 *and*

16 *(B) by inserting after clause (ii) the fol-*  
17 *lowing:*

18 *“(iii) the extent to which the jurisdic-*  
19 *tion or financial institutions operating in*  
20 *that jurisdiction facilitate transactions in-*  
21 *volving the mining, sale, or trade of pre-*  
22 *cious metals subject to any sanctions im-*  
23 *posed by the United States;”; and*

24 *(2) in subparagraph (B)—*

25 *(A) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii)*  
26 *as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively; and*

