SHIMP FOR PRESIDENT 2028

STRATEGIC PRECIOUS METALS RESERVE EXPANSION ACT

LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION DRAFT

A proposal to strengthen the financial, industrial, and national-security resilience of the United States through a diversified Federal reserve of precious metals.

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Independent Candidate for President - 2028
ACCOUNTABILITY | INTEGRITY | RULE OF LAW

Prepared in legislative bill form using the organizational conventions of the U.S. House Office of the Legislative Counsel. This campaign discussion draft is not an introduced bill and would be subject to review by Legislative Counsel, the Congressional Budget Office, relevant committees, and the Parliamentarian before congressional consideration.

119TH CONGRESS

2D SESSION

H. R. ____

DISCUSSION DRAFT

To establish a Strategic Precious Metals Reserve of the United States, to provide for the orderly acquisition, custody, audit, management, and disposition of precious metals held for financial resilience and national security, to strengthen reliable domestic supply chains, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

____________________, 2026

Mr./Ms. __________ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on __________, and in addition to such other committees as may be appropriate, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

A BILL

To establish a Strategic Precious Metals Reserve of the United States, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short title. - This Act may be cited as the **"Strategic Precious Metals Reserve Expansion Act".**

(b) Table of contents. - The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Precious metals constitute durable tangible assets and, in certain cases, are essential inputs for defense, aerospace, energy, electronics, communications, medical, automotive, and advanced manufacturing applications.

(2) The United States maintains substantial official gold holdings, while existing Federal law separately provides authorities concerning gold and silver and the National Defense Stockpile.

(3) Concentration of mining, refining, processing, and trading capacity outside the United States may expose the Nation to supply disruptions, geopolitical coercion, transportation interruptions, sanctions risk, and other national emergencies.

(4) A diversified reserve should complement, and not impair, the monetary responsibilities of the Department of the Treasury, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the operational mission of the National Defense Stockpile.

(5) Orderly, transparent, and gradual acquisition is necessary to avoid unnecessary disruption of commodity markets and to protect taxpayers from avoidable acquisition costs.

(6) Physical custody, recurring independent audits, chain-of-custody controls, and public reporting are necessary to preserve confidence in Federal precious-metal holdings.

(7) Strengthening domestic mining, recovery, recycling, refining, assaying, and secure storage capacity can reduce dangerous dependence on unreliable foreign sources while supporting national resilience.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are -

(1) to establish a diversified Strategic Precious Metals Reserve held for the United States;

(2) to increase the Nation's long-term financial and strategic resilience without establishing a statutory metallic standard for United States currency;

(3) to provide predictable rules for acquisition, storage, audit, and disposition;

(4) to strengthen reliable domestic and allied supply chains for precious metals important to national security and essential civilian industry; and

(5) to ensure that reserve assets are protected from routine liquidation, pledging, leasing, or other encumbrance without congressional accountability.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **Covered precious metal. -** The term “covered precious metal” means gold, silver, platinum, palladium, and any additional precious metal designated under section 6(c).

(2) **Reserve. -** The term “Reserve” means the Strategic Precious Metals Reserve established under section 5.

(3) **Secretary. -** The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury.

(4) **Reliable source. -** The term “reliable source” means the United States or a country, producer, refiner, recycler, or supplier determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Interior, to present an acceptably low risk of coercion, unlawful diversion, sanctions evasion, or supply interruption.

(5) **Domestic source. -** The term “domestic source” means a source located in the United States or its territories and possessions.

SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF STRATEGIC PRECIOUS METALS RESERVE.

(a) Establishment. - There is established in the Department of the Treasury a physical reserve to be known as the “Strategic Precious Metals Reserve of the United States”.

(b) Ownership. - All metal acquired for the Reserve shall be owned by the United States and held for the public purposes specified in this Act.

(c) Administration. - The Secretary shall administer the Reserve in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of the Interior, and such other Federal officials as the President considers appropriate.

(d) No currency convertibility. - Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require redemption of United States currency in any covered precious metal or to establish a metallic standard for United States currency.

SEC. 6. INITIAL RESERVE METALS AND DIVERSIFICATION.

(a) Initial metals. - The Reserve shall initially include gold, silver, platinum, and palladium.

(b) Diversification principle. - The Secretary shall manage acquisitions so that the Reserve is not dependent upon a single metal, single mine, single refiner, single storage facility, or single foreign source.

(c) Additional metals. - The Secretary may recommend to Congress the addition of another precious metal if the Secretary determines that the metal has substantial monetary, industrial, technological, or national-security significance. No additional metal may be acquired under this subsection until specifically authorized by law.

(d) Existing gold. - Gold held by the Treasury before the effective date of this Act shall not be reclassified, transferred, sold, or otherwise altered solely by reason of this Act unless specifically provided by law.

SEC. 7. NATIONAL RESERVE STRATEGY AND ACQUISITION TARGETS.

(a) Strategy required. - Not later than 180 days after enactment, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a 10-year Strategic Precious Metals Reserve Strategy.

(b) Contents. - The strategy shall include -

(1) recommended target quantities or value ranges for each covered precious metal;

(2) the national-security, financial-resilience, industrial, and supply-chain rationale for each target;

(3) projected acquisition schedules designed to minimize market disruption;

(4) domestic production, refining, recycling, and storage capacity assessments;

(5) estimated acquisition, transportation, insurance, assay, storage, security, and audit costs;

(6) criteria for pausing or accelerating purchases in response to extraordinary market conditions; and

(7) an assessment of interactions with the National Defense Stockpile and other Federal holdings.

(c) Review. - The Secretary shall update the strategy not less frequently than once every 2 years.

SEC. 8. ACQUISITION AUTHORITY AND MARKET SAFEGUARDS.

(a) Authority. - Subject to appropriations and the limitations of this Act, the Secretary may purchase covered precious metals for the Reserve through competitive transactions, long-term contracts, auctions, direct purchases from qualified producers or refiners, or other transparent methods determined to protect the public interest.

(b) Gradual acquisition. - Except during a declared national emergency, the Secretary shall structure acquisitions to avoid unreasonable price distortion, artificial scarcity, or material disruption of ordinary commercial supply.

(c) Price discipline. - The Secretary shall establish written procedures for determining reasonable market value and shall not knowingly pay a materially excessive premium absent a written national-security justification transmitted to the appropriate congressional committees.

(d) No unlimited authority. - This section does not authorize expenditures in excess of amounts appropriated by Congress.

(e) Competitive neutrality. - Acquisitions shall, to the maximum extent practicable, avoid favoritism among qualified producers, refiners, dealers, recyclers, and storage providers.

SEC. 9. PREFERENCE FOR RELIABLE DOMESTIC SOURCES.

(a) Order of preference. - In acquiring newly produced or recycled metal, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable and consistent with reasonable cost and availability, give preference in the following order:

(1) domestic sources;

(2) sources within the national technology and industrial base or other close allies determined to be reliable sources; and

(3) other reliable sources.

(b) Prohibited sources. - The Secretary may not knowingly acquire metal directly from a sanctioned person, entity, or source prohibited by Federal law.

(c) Traceability. - The Secretary shall establish commercially reasonable provenance and chain-of-custody requirements designed to reduce the risk of acquiring unlawfully mined, stolen, counterfeit, adulterated, or sanctions-tainted material.

SEC. 10. CUSTODY, STORAGE, SECURITY, AND GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.

(a) Domestic custody. - Physical metal in the Reserve shall be stored within the United States or its territories in facilities owned or controlled by the United States, except that the Secretary may use a federally contracted domestic facility when necessary and when equivalent security and audit rights are guaranteed.

(b) Geographic resilience. - The Secretary shall maintain the Reserve across multiple secure locations when practicable to reduce single-site risk.

(c) Security standards. - Facilities shall meet standards established for physical security, cybersecurity, access control, personnel reliability, surveillance, inventory protection, disaster resilience, and continuity of operations.

(d) Classified details. - Nothing in this Act requires public disclosure of information that would materially compromise facility security, transport routes, protective measures, or other sensitive operational details.

SEC. 11. ASSAY, PURITY, FORM, AND INVENTORY CONTROLS.

(a) Standards. - The Secretary shall establish minimum fineness, assay, weight, physical form, serial identification, and acceptance standards for each covered precious metal.

(b) Independent verification. - Newly acquired metal shall be independently assayed or otherwise verified under procedures designed to prevent counterfeit, substituted, or materially adulterated holdings.

(c) Inventory system. - The Secretary shall maintain a secure item-level inventory system sufficient to establish the identity, weight, purity, location, acquisition cost, and chain of custody of Reserve holdings.

(d) Reconciliation. - Physical inventories shall be reconciled against official accounting records at least annually.

SEC. 12. INDEPENDENT AUDITS AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) Annual audit. - The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct, or supervise, an annual audit of the Reserve's financial statements, inventory controls, and compliance with this Act.

(b) Physical verification. - Not less frequently than once every 3 years, the audit shall include statistically valid physical inspection, weighing, sampling, or assay sufficient to provide reasonable assurance concerning the existence and stated purity of Reserve holdings.

(c) Public report. - The Secretary shall publish annually the aggregate quantity by metal, aggregate acquisition cost, estimated market value, additions, authorized dispositions, audit status, and storage costs, except information properly withheld for national security or facility protection.

(d) Accounting. - Reserve assets and liabilities associated with the Reserve shall be recorded in the financial statements of the United States in accordance with applicable Federal accounting standards.

SEC. 13. RESTRICTIONS ON SALE, TRANSFER, PLEDGE, LEASE, AND ENCUMBRANCE.

(a) General prohibition. - Except as provided in section 14 or another Act of Congress enacted after the date of enactment of this Act, no covered precious metal in the Reserve may be sold, transferred out of Federal ownership, pledged as collateral, leased, swapped, hypothecated, or otherwise encumbered.

(b) Administrative movement. - Subsection (a) does not prohibit transfer between Federal storage facilities, refining or recasting necessary to maintain accepted reserve form, or temporary movement for assay, audit, or security purposes.

(c) No private beneficial interest. - No transaction may create a private beneficial ownership interest in physical Reserve metal unless expressly authorized by law.

SEC. 14. EMERGENCY DISPOSITION AUTHORITY.

(a) Limited authority. - During a national emergency declared pursuant to law, the President may direct temporary disposition of specified Reserve holdings only when necessary to address an acute national-security, defense-industrial, or critical-supply emergency and only to the extent permitted by appropriations and other applicable law.

(b) Congressional notice. - Except where immediate action is required to protect life or national security, no disposition may occur until 30 days after the President transmits to Congress a written justification specifying the metal, quantity, purpose, expected duration, and replenishment plan.

(c) Emergency action. - If immediate disposition is necessary, the President shall transmit the justification to Congress not later than 72 hours after the action.

(d) Replenishment. - The Secretary shall submit a plan to restore disposed quantities when market and security conditions permit.

(e) Proceeds. - Proceeds shall be deposited and used only as provided by law; nothing in this Act supersedes a more specific statutory requirement governing proceeds from a particular Federal asset.

SEC. 15. COORDINATION WITH EXISTING FEDERAL STOCKPILES AND GOLD AUTHORITIES.

(a) Coordination. - The Secretary shall coordinate implementation with the National Defense Stockpile Manager to prevent duplicative acquisition and to distinguish assets held principally for broad financial resilience from materials held principally for defense and industrial mobilization.

(b) Existing law. - Except as expressly provided in this Act, nothing in this Act modifies authorities or restrictions under chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code, or the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act.

(c) Gold certificates. - Nothing in this Act alters the treatment of gold certificates under section 5117 of title 31, United States Code.

(d) National Defense Stockpile. - Nothing in this Act authorizes the Secretary to remove material from the National Defense Stockpile without authority otherwise provided by law.

SEC. 16. SUPPLY-CHAIN DEVELOPMENT AND RECYCLING.

(a) Assessment. - The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary, Secretary of Defense, and Secretary of the Interior, shall assess domestic capacity for mining, recovery, recycling, refining, assaying, secure transportation, and storage of covered precious metals.

(b) Recommendations. - Not later than 1 year after enactment, the President shall transmit to Congress recommendations for strengthening economically viable domestic capacity, reducing strategic single points of failure, and increasing recovery of precious metals from scrap and end-of-life products.

(c) Existing protections. - Nothing in this Act waives otherwise applicable Federal environmental, workplace-safety, labor, permitting, or reclamation requirements.

SEC. 17. MARKET INTEGRITY AND ANTI-MANIPULATION SAFEGUARDS.

(a) Nonpublic acquisition information. - Federal officers, employees, contractors, and agents with material nonpublic information concerning Reserve transactions shall remain subject to applicable ethics, confidentiality, procurement-integrity, and criminal laws.

(b) Trading restrictions. - The Secretary shall establish rules reasonably designed to prevent covered personnel from using material nonpublic Reserve information for personal financial benefit.

(c) Referral. - Evidence of market manipulation, fraud, bribery, theft, counterfeiting, sanctions evasion, or misuse of nonpublic information shall be referred promptly to the appropriate Inspector General, law-enforcement agency, or market regulator.

SEC. 18. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING.

(a) Annual report. - Not later than March 31 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing implementation during the preceding fiscal year.

(b) Matters included. - The report shall include acquisition quantities and costs, source categories, progress toward targets, storage and security expenditures, audit findings, material control deficiencies, authorized dispositions, and recommendations for statutory changes.

(c) Appropriate committees. - The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the committees of the House of Representatives and Senate having jurisdiction over Treasury, appropriations, national defense, natural resources, and relevant commodity or financial-market matters.

SEC. 19. INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.

(a) Oversight. - The Inspector General of the Department of the Treasury shall conduct periodic reviews of acquisition procedures, contracting, custody, security, conflicts of interest, and compliance with this Act.

(b) Immediate reporting. - The Inspector General shall promptly report to Congress any material loss, unexplained inventory discrepancy, significant control failure, or credible evidence of fraud or corruption involving the Reserve.

(c) Whistleblower protections. - Nothing in this Act limits protections otherwise available under Federal law to an employee or contractor who lawfully reports waste, fraud, abuse, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.

SEC. 20. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) Acquisition. - There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as Congress determines appropriate for acquisition of covered precious metals pursuant to annual appropriations Acts and the strategy required by section 7.

(b) Administration. - There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for secure storage, transportation, assay, audit, accounting, cybersecurity, and administration.

(c) No mandatory spending created. - Nothing in this Act shall be construed to provide budget authority in advance of appropriations or to require an acquisition for which Congress has not provided available budget authority.

SEC. 21. RULEMAKING.

(a) Regulations. - Not later than 270 days after enactment, the Secretary shall issue such regulations as are necessary to carry out this Act.

(b) Consultation. - In issuing regulations, the Secretary shall consult with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies and may solicit public comment on matters that do not implicate national security or market-sensitive acquisition information.

SEC. 22. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this Act and the application of the remaining provisions shall not be affected.

SEC. 23. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date of enactment, except that no acquisition under section 8 may be made before amounts are made available by an Act of Congress for that purpose.

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING NOTES

This discussion draft is structured as a freestanding bill. It follows the standard Federal hierarchy of section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, clause, and subclause; uses “shall” for duties and “may” for discretionary authority; and separates findings, purposes, definitions, operative rules, exceptions, oversight, appropriations, and effective-date provisions.

Existing-law coordination. Current law already provides Treasury authority concerning purchases and sales of gold under 31 U.S.C. 5116 and rules concerning Treasury gold and gold certificates under 31 U.S.C. 5117. Separately, the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act provides for the National Defense Stockpile. The draft therefore creates a distinct reserve while preserving those authorities unless Congress expressly changes them.

Appropriations. The draft does not create unlimited automatic purchasing authority. Acquisition remains subject to amounts Congress makes available, allowing acquisition levels to be reviewed through the Federal budget and appropriations process.

Pre-introduction review. Before formal introduction, congressional Legislative Counsel should conform cross-references, committee jurisdiction, budgetary language, definitions, and any desired amendments to existing titles of the United States Code. Congressional Budget Office scoring and committee review would also ordinarily follow.

Prepared for policy development by Shimp for President 2028.