

# World Renowned Critical Minerals Expert Jack Lifton Says There Are No Rare Earth Deposits in the Ukraine

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March 3, 2025 – In a recent interview with Investor.News, Jack Lifton, Co-Chair of the [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI), discussed the improbability and inefficacy of developing rare earth resources in Ukraine, emphasizing the lack of viable rare earth deposits and the implausibility of making a profitable business case. Lifton stated, “Ukraine does not have any rare earth theme deposits that I’m aware of...It’s just a waste to do that,” highlighting the non-existence of economically recoverable rare earth elements within Ukrainian sovereign territory. He compared this to places like Inner Mongolia, where rare earths are a byproduct of substantial iron ore mining, contributing significantly to China’s status as a major producer of both steel and rare earth elements.

Lifton also elaborated on the geopolitical aspects of the proposed U.S. involvement in Ukrainian mining operations, suggesting that the true intent might be to embed an American economic presence as a deterrent to foreign interference, particularly from Russia. He critically noted, “What I think Trump wants to do is make the entire world into a commercial operation benefiting the United States.” Lifton dismissed the practicality of investing in Ukrainian rare earth mining as a diversion from more promising opportunities in regions like Canada and Australia, which not only have significant rare earth deposits but also established markets. He underscored the

abundance of critical mineral resources in North America, particularly in Canada, advocating for enhanced U.S.-Canada cooperation in developing these assets rather than focusing on geopolitically complicated and economically unviable projects like those proposed in Ukraine.

To access the complete interview, [click here](#)