



May 02, 2025

U.S. House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Committee Members:

On behalf of Jobs for Minnesotans, we are writing in strong support of Section 80131, Superior National Forest Lands in Minnesota, of the House Natural Resources reconciliation package released this week. This area of northeast Minnesota contains the world's largest undeveloped resources of copper, nickel, cobalt, platinum group metals and more – all resources vital to bolstering American energy and national security. There are several companies in northeast Minnesota pursuing responsible development of these vital resources.

Jobs for Minnesotans was co-founded by the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council representing more than 55,000 workers and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce representing 2,300 companies and 500,000 employees. This coalition represents businesses, labor, communities and other supporters of job creation and investment in the state of Minnesota.

Several mining companies in Minnesota have faced significant setbacks as a result of the Biden Administration enacting a mining ban across 225,000 acres of federal land in 2023, in addition to cancelling federal mineral rights. Mining projects in this area have a unique opportunity to provide funding for the federal government through the taxes and royalties generated from federal mineral leases under Minnesota's modernized leasing system. They will also contribute significant funds to the state of Minnesota through royalties, taxes and contributions to the Permanent School Fund, which supports K-12 education across the state.

The Department of the Interior's (DOI) cancellation of federal mineral rights and enactment of a mineral withdrawal in northeast Minnesota was devastating to the local communities in this area that have experienced significant economic decline for decades.

Minnesota has the potential to become a global leader in the responsible production of our critical mineral resources. Overturning the mineral withdrawal and restoring federal mineral rights in northeast Minnesota is an important first step in ensuring these minerals can be developed here in the U.S. under our high regulatory standards. If passed into law, the language in the reconciliation package does not mean that mining begins the next day. It will allow project proposers in our area the opportunity to have their projects reviewed through the robust regulatory processes under state and federal agencies. These projects must prove they can meet all of the stringent environmental standards in place before they can earn permits to begin constructing a mine.



More broadly, Minnesota's mining projects are vital for our nation to achieve its goals of creating American jobs, bolstering national security, and becoming energy independent.

Best regards,

**David Lislegard**

Executive Director, Jobs for Minnesotans

**Andy Campeau**

Board Chair, Jobs for Minnesotans

Minnesota Pipe Trades Association

###

#### *About Jobs for Minnesotans*

*Jobs for Minnesotans, a coalition representing business, labor and communities, supports statewide opportunities for prosperity and middle-class jobs from sustainable natural resource development in Minnesota. The organization is committed to the principle that our state can preserve both job opportunities and the environment for future generations. Jobs for Minnesotans was co-founded in 2012 by the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council representing 70,000 workers and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce representing 2,300 members and 500,000 employees. For more information, visit [jobsforminnesotans.org](http://jobsforminnesotans.org), follow @JobsforMN on Twitter and find the coalition on [Facebook.com/Jobs4MN](https://www.facebook.com/Jobs4MN).*