



May 02, 2025

U.S. House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Committee Members:

On behalf of MiningMinnesota, I am 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 largest known undeveloped copper nickel deposit in the world, in addition to significant helium deposits, and several of our member companies in the region are pursuing responsible development of these resources that are vital to national security and bolstering domestic supply chains.

MiningMinnesota is a group of industry leaders who advocate for safe and responsible mining in Minnesota. Several of our member companies 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.

Not only will Minnesota mining projects bring investment to our local communities who have experienced economic decline for decades, but they will also produce income for the federal government through the taxes and royalties generated from federal mineral leases under Minnesota's modernized leasing system.

The Department of the Interior's (DOI) cancellation of federal mineral rights and enactment of a mineral withdrawal in northeast Minnesota has been devastating to both our mining projects and the many community members that want to see them move forward. These actions have created uncertainty for domestic mining and investment in Minnesota, putting projects in jeopardy.



Minnesota has the potential to become a mineral powerhouse for the U.S., with resources that will support generations of mining. Overturning the mineral withdrawal and restoring federal mineral rights in northeast Minnesota is a critical step in ensuring these minerals can be developed here in the U.S. It will not mean that mining will begin immediately, but rather, it will give project proposers the opportunity to have their projects reviewed through the robust regulatory processes under state and federal agencies.

More broadly, Minnesota's mining projects are vital for our nation to achieve the administration's goals of mineral independence, boosting domestic manufacturing, and ensuring our long-term energy security. It's a win for the administration and for our local communities in Minnesota.

Best regards,



Julie Lucas  
Executive Director, MiningMinnesota

