



American Exploration &
Mining Association

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The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee
123 Cannon Office Building
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Gosar
Chairman, Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee
2057 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Chairman Gosar:

The American Exploration & Mining Association (AEMA) supports H.R. 3905, the “Minnesota’s Economic Rights (MINER) in the Superior National Forest Act,” sponsored by Cong. Tom Emmer (MN-6th) and cosponsored by Cong. Collin Peterson (MN-7th), Cong. Jason Lewis (MN-2nd) and Cong. Paul Gosar (AZ-4th).

In 1950, Congress took action to make land available for mineral exploration and development within the Superior National Forest (SNF) within the Iron Range region in Northeast Minnesota. In 1978, Congress prohibited mining within the region’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) and an adjacent protective buffer zone, while reaffirming that mining should be allowed and promoted in the remaining area of the SNF.

H.R. 3905 aims to correct injustices to the region by renewing Twin Metals Minnesota’s federal mineral leases, ensuring future leases in the area remain valid and renewed as outlined by current law, and requiring Congressional approval for any federal proposal to withdraw land from mining. These actions will eliminate delays, return to good stewardship of fair process and restore the opportunity to explore strategic metals critical to our economy and national security in one of the richest mineral deposits in the nation.

The economic opportunities from mining projects are significant – thousands of direct jobs, two times as many jobs in spinoff industries and billions of dollars to support K-12 education across the state. The emerging mining industry is an investment in the future well-being of our state and nation; without this legislation, that future is at risk.

We urge rapid passage of H.R. 3905 through the U.S. Congress. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Laura Skaer
Executive Director