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Dear Congressmen Gosar,

On behalf (Apache Sun G.C- Rory Van Poucke) , I am writing to urge your support for H.R. 3905, the Minnesota Economic Rights (MINER) in the Superior National Forest Act, bipartisan legislation sponsored by Cong. Tom Emmer (MN-6th) , and cosponsored by Cong. Collin Peterson (MN-7th) , Cong. Jason (MN-2nd) and Cong. Paul Gosar (AZ-4th). H.R. 3905 is currently on the agenda of the House Rules Committee, on a path for House floor in coming weeks.

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 adjacent protective buffer zone, while reaffirming that mining should be allowed and promoted in the remaining area of SNF.

Unfortunately, the economic future of the region now threatened by federal agency initiated in December 2016 that would cancel valid, long standing federal mineral leases and withdraw 235,000 acres of federal land in the region from future mining development , contrary to the previous directives by Congress. If allowed to stand, these agency actions will eliminate the possible creation of thousands of good jobs, billions of dollars in economic growth, and billions more in revenues for Minnesota's public schools through development on state school trusts lands.

H.R. 3905 aims to correct the injustices being thrust upon the Iron Range by requiring congressional approval of any mineral withdrawal or monument designation involving the National Forest Systems lands in the State of Minnesota, as providing for renewal of certain mineral leases and ensuring future leases in the area remain valid and renewed as outlined by current law. Moreover, H.R. 3905 changes no environmental review process, relaxes no environmental process, , relaxes in environmental standards, and specifically restates Congress prohibition on any mining activity in the BWCAW and surrounding protective buffers.

H.R. 3905 would reaffirm long-standing Congressional intent in management and development of critical minerals in Minnesota, eliminate bureaucratic delays in developing environmentally - responsible mine project proposals , and restore the promise of future job growth and economic opportunity to an economically distressed region of the state. We strongly urge your vote in support H.R. 3905.

Thank You,

Rory Van Poucke
San Tan Valley, AZ