

CITY OF ELY

209 E. Chapman St.
Ely, Minnesota 55731
218-365-3224

November 27, 2017

Dear Congressman Nolan,

The City of Ely is writing to urge your support for H.R. 3905, the “Minnesota’s Economic Rights (MINER) in the Superior National Forest Act,” bipartisan legislation sponsored by Congressman Tom Emmer (MN-6th) and co-sponsored by Congressman Collin Peterson (MN-7th), Congressman Jason Lewis (MN-2nd) and Congressman Paul Gosar (AZ-4th). H.R. 3905 is currently on the agenda of the House Rules Committee, on a path for House floor action in the 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 an adjacent protective buffer zone, while reaffirming that mining should be allowed and promoted in the remaining area of the SNF.

Unfortunately, the economic future of the region is now threatened by federal agency actions 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-paying jobs, billions of dollars in economic growth, and billions more in revenues for Minnesota’s public schools through mineral development on state school trust 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 System lands in the State of Minnesota, as well as providing for the 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 processes, relaxes no environmental standards, and specifically restates Congress’ prohibition on any mining activity in the BWCAW and surrounding protective buffer.



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

The Ely City Council passed Resolution 2017-035 in support of the H.R. 3905 The MINER ACT on November 21, 2017 which is attached.

We strongly urge your vote in support of H.R. 3905. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Novak", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Chuck Novak
City of Ely

CITY OF ELY

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING H.R. 3905 MINNESOTA ECONOMIC RIGHTS
(MINER) IN THE SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST ACT**

WHEREAS, Congressman Tom Emmer has introduced a bill called the MINER ACT and the bill has been assigned Bill No. H.R. 3905

WHEREAS, H.R. 3905 will resolve the issues that were denied in the renewal of the leases and the land withdrawal study

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the City of Ely hereby passes Resolution 2017-035 and encourages all members of congress to vote in support of this bill.

Upon vote taken thereon, the following voted:

For: Council Members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Omerza, Callen, D. Forsman and
Mayor Novak

Against: None

Whereupon said Resolution No. 2017-035 was declared duly passed and adopted this 21st day of November 2017.



Chuck Novak, Mayor



Harold R Langowski, Clerk/Treasurer