



November 27, 2017

Dear Congressman Gosar,

As a concerned citizen, as a mining engineer, and as president of an Arizona corporation responsible for the gainful employment of over 100 employees and contractors here in Mohave County, I am 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 Cong. Tom Emmer (MN-6th) and cosponsored by Cong. Collin Peterson (MN-7th), Cong. Jason Lewis (MN-2nd) and yourself, Cong. 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.

This part of Minnesota has a long history of providing the minerals necessary for the growth of the American economy to first place in the world, and for the defense of the nation during two world wars and the subsequent conflicts in Korea and Vietnam. 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.

Similar, unwarranted federal agency actions throughout the United States, and particularly in the west, continually remove lands with high mineral potential from exploration and future development. The engineers, scientists, technologists and tradesmen, who form the core of the American mining industry, are recognized as the world leaders in environmentally sound mining, by everyone except the anti-mining lobby and some of the folks in the Federal agencies. Eliminating opportunities for continuing development of resources in America, and driving the industry off-shore, to jurisdictions where environmental responsibility and regulations are non-existent is sheer folly. The down-stream jobs in the manufacturing industry that often accompany mineral development and production are over-looked but are also important.



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 an economically distressed region of the state. We strongly urge your vote in support of H.R 3905. The significance of precedents being set by this vote on future actions throughout the rest of the Country is very high.

Thank-you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Bardswich".

Joe Bardswich, P.E.

President

Office: 928-763-6252

Cell: 928-234-5227

Joe.Bardswich@GoldenVertex.com