



---

"Advocate for a business environment in which our members can prosper"

---

November 21, 2017

Cong. Rick Nolan  
Cong. Erik Paulson  
Cong. Tim Waltz

Gentlemen,

It is my understanding that HR 3905, or the MINERS Act, is up for debate and possible floor vote in the House maybe as soon as November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness has strict protections in place and buffer zones surrounding it where mining is prohibited. There is also an established process in place for the public to evaluate mining projects on their merits in those areas where it is permissible permit a mine and that has provided adequate protections as well.

We believe that withdrawing 235,000 acres of land in Minnesota from any future leasing, exploration or development possibilities is unnecessary, extremely detrimental to northern Minnesota and the economy of the rest of the State and circumvents previous directives by Congress.

H.R. 3905 can reaffirm long standing Congressional intent in the management and development of critical minerals in Minnesota and the possibility of future job growth and economic opportunity in Minnesota.

We stand in support of the passage of this important piece of legislation and hope that you do as well.

Sincerely,

Bud Stone, President  
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Cong. Tom Emmer  
Cong. Collin Peterson  
Cong. Paul Gosar