

**Josh Heintzeman**  
State Representative  
District 10A  
Crow Wing County



# Minnesota House of Representatives

November 27, 2017

Congressman Tom Emmer  
9201 Quaday Ave. NE  
Suite 206  
Otsego, MN 55330

Via Email: [David.fitzsimmons@mail.house.gov](mailto:David.fitzsimmons@mail.house.gov)

Dear Congressman Emmer,

I am so proud of you for your work on the upcoming HR3905, the "Minnesota's Economic Rights (MINER) in the Superior National Forest Act." This bipartisan legislation, which Congressman Jason Lewis is helping you to pass, is exactly what is needed as we get to the end of the first year of our President's term.

There was so much damage done during the closing days of the Obama administration to job creation in Northern Minnesota and our ability to responsibly utilize the natural resources this part of the state is blessed with. Withdrawing a large amount of land from exploration without so much as a discussion on the issue is the height of executive branch arrogance and abuse of power.

I am so glad that our state has leaders like you who have the courage to take on these abuses of power that happened during the last administration. We still struggle here in Northern Minnesota to develop and provide our young people with the kinds of jobs we need to keep our talented kids at home. Too many of your colleagues, and activists from the Twin Cities treat our homes like their personal playgrounds rather than as places where real families work, live and raise their families.

Northern Minnesota is blessed with some of the richest and most abundant deposits of some of the most valuable minerals on earth. The choices we face as a country, are whether to mine them responsibly here in Northern Minnesota with jobs for our wonderful workforce, or continue to mine them irresponsibly overseas where there are fewer environmental and labor laws to protect our planet's water or hard-working people's rights. We wouldn't need this kind of legislation if Washington wasn't broken. If our part of the state was really an inappropriate place to mine for these metals, our elected officials should have had that discussion. But they didn't. President Obama decided to impose that restriction on us.

Your legislation will have some real debate and will get us back to a place where companies who want to invest in Minnesota will have the opportunity to show us and our regulators that they can do this responsibly. If they are unable to do that, they won't be mining. It is that simple. But we can't have confidence in our "leaders" if they aren't willing to let job creators work with us to show they can create these mines responsibly.

HR3905 should be a no-brainer. I even appreciate Congressman Peterson for putting his name on this easy legislation. Thank you Congressman Emmer, and Congressman Lewis. Please utilize this letter to strongly encourage the rest of the Minnesota delegation to join you and the bi-partisan authors in passing this as soon as possible

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Heintzeman".

Rep. Josh Heintzeman

Cc: *Congressman Jason Lewis*  
*Congressman Erik Paulsen*

*Chairwoman Jennifer Carnahan*  
*Chairman Ted Lovedah*

