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Nov. 22, 2017

The Honorable Erik Paulsen
U.S. House of Representatives
127 Cannon Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: In Support of MINER Act

VIA EMAIL

Dear Congressman Paulsen:

I'm writing on behalf of legislation described below but wanted to let you know I had submitted a request to meet in person, as I plan to be in Washington the week after Thanksgiving. I hope you have time to meet with me. Thank you for considering.

On behalf of the coalition Jobs for Minnesotans, which represents business, labor and communities across the state, I am writing in strong support of H.R. 3905, the Minnesota's Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act, known as the MINER Act. This bipartisan legislation sponsored by Congressman Tom Emmer (MN-6th) and co-sponsored by Congressmen Collin Peterson (MN-7th), Jason Lewis (MN-2nd) and Paul Gosar (AZ-4th) seeks to ensure the proper consideration of future job growth and economic opportunity in northeastern Minnesota by requiring congressional approval of any mineral withdrawal or monument designation involving the National Forest System lands in the state. It also provides for the renewal of certain mineral leases and ensuring that future leases in northeastern Minnesota remain valid and renewed as outlined by current law. H.R. 3905 is currently before the House Rules Committee and is expected to reach the House floor in coming weeks.

H.R. 3905 leaves intact existing environmental review processes and standards and restates Congress' prohibition of any mining activity in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) and surrounding protective buffer. As such, it reaffirms long-standing Congressional intent in management and development of critical minerals in Minnesota and cuts bureaucratic delays in assessing responsible mine project proposals.

Unfortunately, federal agency actions in December 2016 jeopardized the economic future of the region by canceling valid, long-standing federal mineral leases and withdrawing 235,000 acres of federal land in the region from future mining development. This was contrary to the previous directives by Congress in 1950 and again in 1978. In 1950 Congress made land available for mineral exploration and development within the Superior National Forest (SNF) within

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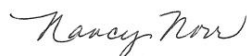
Minnesota Building and
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the Iron Range region. In 1978, while Congress prohibited mining within the BWCAW and an adjacent protective buffer zone, it also reaffirmed that mining should be allowed and promoted in the remaining area of the SNF.

The agency actions in 2016 would block the potential creation of thousands of 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 these injustices, which is why we strongly urge you to cast your vote in support of it. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Nancy Norr
Board Chair
Jobs for Minnesotans

Jobs for Minnesotans, a coalition representing business, labor and communities, supports statewide opportunities for prosperity and middle-class jobs from sustainable natural resource development in Minnesota. The organization is committed to the principle that our state can preserve both job opportunities and the environment for future generations. Jobs for Minnesotans was co-founded in 2012 by the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council representing 55,000 workers and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce representing 2,300 companies and 500,000 employees.