



# MINNESOTA PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION

Affiliate of the United Association  
Composed of Journeyman and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry  
Of the United States and Canada  
State Federation of Labor – A.F.L.-C.I.O.

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Duluth-Detroit Lakes  
Plumbers and Pipefitters  
Local #11

Minneapolis-St. Cloud  
Plumbers  
Local #15

Minneapolis-St. Cloud  
Pipefitters  
Local #539

Minneapolis-St. Paul  
Sprinkler Fitters  
Local #417

Minneapolis  
Gas Workers  
Local #340

Moorhead  
Plumbers and Pipefitters  
Local #300

Rochester  
Plumbers and Pipefitters  
Local #6

St. Paul – Mankato  
Plumbers  
Local #34

St. Paul – Mankato  
Pipefitters  
Local #455

Virginia  
Plumbers and Pipefitters  
Local #589

Road Sprinkler Fitters  
Local #669  
District 28

November 28, 2017

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of more than 9500 men and women working in various piping related industries throughout the state of Minnesota, I am writing to express our support of H.R. 3905, Minnesota's Economic Rights (MINER) in the Superior National Forest Act.

On January 5, 2017, the previous administration proposed a 234, 328-acre federal mineral withdrawal of National Forest System lands, for a 20-year term, within the Rainy River Watershed in the Superior National Forest. The action immediately placed this area off limits to development for up to two years while the withdrawal is considered. The total withdrawal application boundary spans 425,000 acres, including 95,000 acres of state school trust fund lands.

With this policy in place, Minnesotans lost their mineral rights. Unable to utilize these natural resources, 17,000 jobs are at risk and roughly \$2.5 billion of economic activity is jeopardized. Many members of the Minnesota Pipe Trades Association are depending on these jobs.

The Minnesota Pipe Trades Association (MPTA) fully supports the thorough regulatory process in place in the State of Minnesota. It is our belief this process is adequate in determining whether a project should move forward, or not.

As a result, MPTA is in support of H.R. 3905, Minnesota's Economic Rights (MINER) in the Superior National Forest Act, and urge the immediate passage of this bi-partisan legislation.

Sincerely,

David M. Ybarra II  
President  
Minnesota Pipe Trades Association