



HAL QUINN
President & CEO

November 27, 2017

The Honorable Paul Gosar
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gosar:

The National Mining Association (NMA) supports H.R. 3905, Minnesota's Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest (MINER) Act, introduced by Rep. Tom Emmer (MN-06), that would require congressional approval of any mineral withdrawal or monument designation involving the National Forest System lands in Minnesota, as well as provide for the renewal of certain mineral leases.

Northern Minnesota is blessed with a world class, economically significant, mineral deposit containing copper, nickel and precious metals. In an unprecedented move—one clearly motivated by politics rather than science—the previous administration denied two mineral lease renewal applications that had been renewed several times without issue dating back to 1966. Furthermore, the previous administration initiated a full-scale mineral withdrawal of nearly 240,000 acres just days before leaving office.

Faced with strong but limited economic options in this part of the state, it is unfortunate that the federal government would create such obstacles for projects that have the potential to generate thousands of high-paying jobs and provide significant revenues to support regional development, schools and other essential services.

Importantly, the mineral deposits under these leases are critical to our domestic manufacturing, infrastructure and defense needs. The U.S. has become increasingly reliant on foreign imports with only 50 percent of the needs of our manufacturing industry being sourced from domestic mineral supplies.

We appreciate you and your colleagues' efforts to correct this dangerous executive overreach and reclaim the power reserved to Congress for large-scale mineral withdrawals of the public lands. NMA supports the passage of H.R. 3905, the MINER Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hal Quinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "H" and a long, sweeping underline.

Hal Quinn