

November 22, 2017

Dear Representative Emmer,

The Range Association of Municipalities & Schools (RAMS) represents cities, townships and school districts that are located within the area known as the Taconite Assistance Area (TAA) of northeastern Minnesota. The TAA covers an area about the size of the state of West Virginia, and I like to call it the "mining center of excellence". RAMS represents over 72,000 residents and speaks on their behalf on issues of regional importance. With over 130 years of mining as our heritage and economic backbone, we know how to mine and we do it while protecting the most pristine environment in the state.

None of the mining would have occurred if not for mining exploration. The MINER Act (H.R. 3905) the bi-partisan bill co-authored by you and Rep. Colin Peterson, would allow for continued mining exploration in an area that has been determined to contain the largest precious mineral deposits in all of North America, The previous administration enacted a withdrawal of 234,000 acres of Federal land that is vital to our economic future. The results of the withdrawal and a potential 20 year moratorium would have a devastating impact on the financial support for our state wide public school system and future generations of Iron Rangers who would be employed in any future mining developments.

It has been estimated that within 20 years of mining for precious minerals, our Permanent School Trust Fund would reap nearly \$3 billion dollars in royalties. This fund is then allocated back to each and every public school district in the state serving 900,000 students.

The MINER Act does not infringe or restrict the very strenuous and stringent environmental review and enforcement process, and specifically re-emphasizes that there will be *NO* mining in the Boundary Waters (BWCAW) or the buffer zone surrounding the BWCAW.

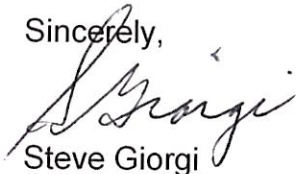
I implore you to continue to move this legislation forward with a strong sense of urgency and deeply appreciate your efforts to date on behalf of the region and the mining industry that is critical to Minnesota's economic welfare and our national economy and security. I respectfully request you share this letter with the entire Minnesota delegation

"One Range...One Voice"

and any other legislator who needs persuasion to vote YES on the MINER Act next week.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me for further information or assistance in supporting this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Giorgi".

Steve Giorgi

Executive Director

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