

January 20, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Jeffries, and
Minority Leader Schumer:

Our organizations represent a broad range of American industry that care deeply about advancing opportunities for individuals and families across the country and fostering a stronger nation. We represent vital industries such as mining, manufacturing, transportation and energy; we represent hundreds of thousands of union workers; we include economic development associations; we are business leaders and much more.

We are writing to express our strong support for Congress' efforts to utilize the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to disapprove of the mineral withdrawal (Public Land Order No. 7917) that was enacted in northeast Minnesota by the Department of the Interior (DOI) in January 2023 on more than 225,000 acres of federal lands.

Minerals are fundamental to everything in our modern world, from wiring in homes, to energy technologies and infrastructure, medical technologies, transportation, defense capabilities, smartphones and laptops and more. Simply put, minerals are vital for a safe, secure and prosperous America. Unfortunately, China and other adversarial nations dominate the globe in mineral production and processing, while U.S. dependence on foreign sources for these materials has recently reached an all-time high. The ban on mining across a significant portion of Minnesota only sets us further behind as a nation and increases our strategic vulnerability to mineral imports from geopolitical adversaries.

As a result, this mineral withdrawal – an administrative action which forbids any mining or exploration activity on these highly mineralized lands for 20 years – was enacted in an area of the U.S. that contains enormous amounts of the minerals our nation needs to achieve its goals of energy independence, stronger domestic supply chains and American job creation. These are goals our organizations collectively work to advance.

Northeast Minnesota is home to the world's largest known undeveloped deposits of copper, nickel, cobalt, platinum group metals and more. The area contains 95 percent of domestic nickel resources, almost 90 percent of domestic cobalt and

about a third of our nation's copper. It is not only a critical national resource but one supported by the surrounding communities for the betterment of the local and statewide economy.

Congress now has the opportunity to correct this harmful mineral withdrawal, thereby ensuring that these minerals will be produced domestically according to some of the world's most rigorous environmental and safety standards.

Minnesota and the federal government have already put in place comprehensive rules and a framework to ensure the environment is protected and that any proposed industrial activity in the area meets stringent regulatory standards. The U.S. also has some of the most robust safety standards for workers. To ignore the opportunity to produce minerals domestically means that we are more reliant on nations with low-to-non-existent worker protections.

Disapproving the withdrawal in Minnesota will undo an unnecessary and damaging action. It will also set a course for job creation and revenue generation in northeastern Minnesota while adhering to strict environmental, safety and labor standards.

We collectively support the use of the CRA to overturn the administrative mineral withdrawal. It is the first step to unlocking the vast mineral resources of northeastern Minnesota that our nation needs to reduce our dangerous dependence on China and other adversarial nations for the same minerals and metals we have here at home.

Signed,