

Roger J. Skraba
State Representative
District 03A



Minnesota House of Representatives

May 10, 2023

Chairman Pete Stauber
Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20003

Ranking Member Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Committee Members,

I write to you today to express my strong support for both House Concurrent Resolution 34 and proposed legislation that would undo the Biden Administration's unilateral decision to cancel mineral leases on Minnesota's Iron Range and to rescind the Department of the Interior's Public Land Order No. 7917 which effectively blocks development of mining operations across 225,504 acres of land in Northeast Minnesota for the next 20 years.

If these orders remain in effect, the communities, families, schools, businesses, and entire region I am so honored to represent in the Minnesota House of Representatives will be devastated.

Mining is part of our past and in order for our communities to reach their full potential, it needs to be a part of our future as well. Minnesota's Iron Range has been safely mining for more than 130 years.

Here in Minnesota, we have the best workforce in the world with some of the highest environmental standards. The copper, nickel, cobalt, lithium, and many other precious materials needed to produce modern technologies are beneath our feet here in Northeastern Minnesota. There is no need for the Biden Administration to tie one hand behind America's back and force us to rely on foreign nations for these materials when we can safely mine them right here on the Iron Range.



Failing to act means that my communities will lose out on billions in private investments, thousands of good-paying union jobs, and billions in tax revenues that support our schools.

Again, because of the far-reaching implications the Biden Administration's actions have on the communities and region I represent, I ask you to support both House Concurrent Resolution 34 and the legislation before you today. We cannot afford to wait any longer.

Sincerely,



Roger Skraba
House District 3A

