

**Spencer Igo**  
State Representative  
District 07A  
Itasca, Aitkin, and St. Louis Counties



# Minnesota House of Representatives

May 9, 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

via electronic delivery

Dear Committee Members,

As members of Minnesota's Iron Range Delegation, our collective legislative districts represent Minnesota's Iron Range where safe mining has supported our communities for more than 130 years.

In January 2022, the Biden Administration unilaterally cancelled two decades-old mineral leases on Minnesota's Iron Range. One year later, the Department of the Interior issued Public Land Order No. 7917 which effectively blocked development of mining operations across 225,504 acres of land in Northeast Minnesota for the next 20 years.

These actions will cause generational harm to our communities if they are allowed to remain in effect. That is why we are writing to you today to express our bipartisan support for both House Concurrent Resolution 34 and the *Superior National Forest Restoration Act* that would undo the mineral withdrawal and reinstate these longstanding mining leases.

If you fail to act, the Iron Range will lose thousands of good-paying union jobs, billions of dollars in future investments for the people of Northeast Minnesota, and billions of dollars in tax revenues that support students through Minnesota's School Trust Lands.

The Iron Range is home to one the richest mineral deposits in the world and could be a crucial domestic supplier of copper, nickel, cobalt, lithium, and many of the precious materials needed for our modern world. These metals and minerals are needed for electric vehicle battery production, renewable energy projects, smartphones, defense systems, and many other modern technologies.

Blocking the mining of these minerals in Minnesota runs in direct contradiction to the Biden Administration's stated goal of increasing domestic mineral production and would further America's dependence on foreign nations while leaving us vulnerable to disruptions to global supply chains.



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Given the far-reaching implications the Biden Administration's actions have on the communities we represent and the importance of establishing robust domestic mineral production to build the economy of tomorrow, we urge you to support both aforementioned items that are before the committee today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Igo".

Rep. Spencer Igo  
Assistant Minority Leader  
District 7A

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Davis".

Rep. Ben Davis  
District 6A

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger J. Skraba".

Rep. Roger Skraba  
District 3A

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Eichorn".

Sen. Justin Eichorn  
Assistant Minority Leader  
District 6

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Farnsworth".

Sen. Robert Farnsworth  
District 7

