



September 10, 2024

Chairman Westerman and Members of the House of Representatives:

On behalf of MiningMinnesota, I am writing to express our strong support for your legislation aimed at improving the permitting of projects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

MiningMinnesota is a coalition of industry and community leaders who advocate for safe and environmentally responsible mining in Minnesota.

This legislation would have a positive impact on several major proposed copper-nickel mining projects in our region through improved transparency and efficiency in the federal permitting process. The communities in northeast Minnesota stand to benefit from these projects through their ability to bring significant economic contributions and job opportunities to an area of Minnesota that has been in economic decline for decades. Yet, the companies proposing to responsibly bring these projects forward have faced a series of unnecessary setbacks and delays in the federal environmental review and permitting process.

Permitting reform is critically needed to ensure these problems no longer persist, and to ensure proposed projects are reviewed in a coordinated and efficient manner while simultaneously ensuring our strong environmental standards are met.

The copper-nickel mining projects in our region are essential to the revitalization of our local communities and to ensuring we meet our nation's goals of bolstering domestic supplies of critical minerals.

Therefore, we at MiningMinnesota fully support your proposed NEPA reform legislation, as it would greatly benefit our member companies and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie C. Lucas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Julie C. Lucas, Executive Director
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