

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2685
OFFERED BY MR. STAUBER OF MINNESOTA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Technology Grants to
3 Strengthen Domestic Mining Education Act of 2024” or
4 the “Mining Schools Act of 2024”.

5 **SEC. 2. TECHNOLOGY GRANTS TO STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC**
6 **MINING EDUCATION.**

7 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

8 (1) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the
9 Mining Professional Development Advisory Board
10 established by subsection (d)(1).

11 (2) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The
12 term “institution of higher education” has the
13 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
14 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

15 (3) **MINING INDUSTRY.**—The term “mining in-
16 dustry” means the mining industry of the United
17 States, consisting of the search for, and extraction,
18 beneficiation, refining, smelting, processing, repro-

1 essing, and recycling of, naturally occurring metal
2 and nonmetal minerals from the earth.

3 (4) MINING PROFESSION.—The term “mining
4 profession” means the body of jobs directly relevant
5 to—

6 (A) the exploration, planning, execution,
7 and remediation of metal and nonmetal mining
8 sites; and

9 (B) the extraction, including the separa-
10 tion, refining, alloying, smelting, concentration,
11 processing, reprocessing, and recycling of min-
12 eral ores.

13 (5) MINING SCHOOL.—The term “mining
14 school” means—

15 (A) a mining, metallurgical, geological, or
16 mineral engineering program accredited by the
17 Accreditation Board for Engineering and Tech-
18 nology, Inc., that is located at an institution of
19 higher education, including a Tribal College or
20 University; or

21 (B) a geology or engineering program or
22 department that is located at a 4-year public in-
23 stitution of higher education located in a State
24 the gross domestic product of which in 2021
25 was not less than \$2,000,000,000 in the com-

1 bined categories of “Mining (except oil and
2 gas)” and “Support activities for mining”, ac-
3 cording to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

4 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Energy.

6 (7) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The
7 term “Tribal College or University” has the meaning
8 given the term in section 316(b) of the Higher Edu-
9 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059e(b)).

10 (b) DOMESTIC MINING EDUCATION STRENGTHENING
11 PROGRAM.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
12 retary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the
13 United States Geological Survey), shall—

14 (1) establish a grant program to strengthen do-
15 mestic mining education; and

16 (2) under the program established under para-
17 graph (1), award competitive grants to mining
18 schools for the purpose of recruiting and educating
19 the next generation of mining engineers and other
20 qualified professionals to meet the future energy and
21 mineral needs of the United States.

22 (c) GRANTS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the grant
24 program established under subsection (b)(1), the

1 Secretary shall award not more than 10 grants each
2 year to mining schools.

3 (2) SELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum ex-
5 tent practicable, the Secretary shall select re-
6 cipients for grants under paragraph (1) to en-
7 sure geographic diversity among grant recipi-
8 ents to ensure that region-specific specialties
9 are developed for region-specific geology.

10 (B) TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall
11 award the grants under paragraph (1) by not
12 later than the later of—

13 (i) the date that is 180 days after the
14 start of the applicable fiscal year; and

15 (ii) the date that is 180 days after the
16 date on which the Act making full-year ap-
17 propriations for the Department of Energy
18 for the applicable fiscal year is enacted.

19 (3) RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—In selecting recipients
21 for grants under paragraph (1) and deter-
22 mining the amount of each grant, the Sec-
23 retary, to the maximum extent practicable, shall
24 take into consideration the recommendations of

1 the Board under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
2 subsection (d)(3).

3 (B) SELECTION STATEMENT.—In selecting
4 recipients for grants under paragraph (1), the
5 Secretary shall—

6 (i) in response to a recommendation
7 from the Board, submit to the Board a
8 statement that describes—

9 (I) whether the Secretary accepts
10 or rejects, in whole or in part, the rec-
11 ommendation of the Board; and

12 (II) the justification and ration-
13 ale for any rejection, in whole or in
14 part, of the recommendation of the
15 Board; and

16 (ii) not later than 15 days after
17 awarding a grant for which the Board sub-
18 mitted a recommendation, publish the
19 statement submitted under clause (i) on
20 the Department of Energy website.

21 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—A mining school receiving
22 a grant under paragraph (1) shall use the grant
23 funds—

24 (A) to recruit students to the mining
25 school; and

1 (B) to enhance and support programs re-
2 lated to, as applicable—

3 (i) mining, mineral extraction effi-
4 ciency, and related processing technology;

5 (ii) emphasizing critical mineral and
6 rare earth element exploration, extraction,
7 and refining;

8 (iii) reclamation technology and prac-
9 tices for active mining operations;

10 (iv) the development of reprocessing
11 systems and technologies that facilitate
12 reclamation that fosters the recovery of re-
13 sources at abandoned mine sites;

14 (v) mineral extraction, refining, proc-
15 essing, reprocessing, and recycling methods
16 that reduce environmental and human im-
17 pacts;

18 (vi) technologies to extract, refine,
19 separate, melt, produce, or recycle min-
20 erals, including rare earth elements;

21 (vii) reducing dependence on foreign
22 energy and mineral supplies through in-
23 creased domestic critical mineral produc-
24 tion and recycling;

1 (viii) enhancing the competitiveness of
2 United States energy and mineral tech-
3 nology exports;

4 (ix) the extraction or processing of co-
5 inciding mineralization, including rare
6 earth elements, within coal or other ores,
7 coal or mineral processing byproduct, over-
8 burden, or residue from coal, minerals, or
9 other ores;

10 (x) enhancing technologies and prac-
11 tices relating to mitigation of acid mine
12 drainage, reforestation, and revegetation in
13 the reclamation of land and water re-
14 sources adversely affected by mining;

15 (xi) enhancing exploration and charac-
16 terization of new or novel deposits, includ-
17 ing rare earth elements and critical min-
18 erals within phosphate rocks, uranium-
19 bearing deposits, and other nontraditional
20 sources;

21 (xii) meeting challenges of extreme
22 mining conditions, such as deeper deposits
23 or cold region mining;

24 (xiii) mineral economics, including
25 analysis of supply chains, future mineral

1 needs, and unconventional mining re-
2 sources; and

3 (xiv) mining practices that reduce en-
4 vironmental impact, including mining prac-
5 tices that reduce water usage, mitigate
6 surface disturbance, and promote overall
7 resource efficiency.

8 (d) MINING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVI-
9 SORY BOARD.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established an advi-
11 sory board, to be known as the “Mining Professional
12 Development Advisory Board”.

13 (2) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be com-
14 posed of 6 members, to be appointed by the Sec-
15 retary not later than 180 days after the date of en-
16 actment of this Act, of whom—

17 (A) 3 shall be individuals who are actively
18 working in the mining profession and for the
19 mining industry; and

20 (B) 3 shall have experience in academia
21 implementing and operating professional skills
22 training and education programs in the mining
23 sector.

24 (3) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

1 (A) evaluate grant applications received
2 under subsection (c) and make recommenda-
3 tions to the Secretary for selection of grant re-
4 cipients under that subsection;

5 (B) propose the amount of the grant for
6 each applicant recommended to be selected
7 under subparagraph (A); and

8 (C) perform oversight to ensure that grant
9 funds awarded under subsection (c) are used
10 for the purposes described in paragraph (4) of
11 that subsection.

12 (4) TERM.—A member of the Board shall serve
13 for a term of 4 years.

14 (5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Board—

15 (A) shall not affect the powers of the
16 Board; and

17 (B) shall be filled in the same manner as
18 the original appointment was made by not later
19 than 180 days after the date on which the va-
20 cancy occurs.

21 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF THE MINING AND MINERAL RESOURCES**
22 **RESEARCH INSTITUTE ACT OF 1984.**

23 Public Law 98–409 (30 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.; com-
24 monly known as the “Mining and Mineral Resources Re-
25 search Institute Act of 1984”) is repealed.

1 **SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

2 No additional funds are authorized to carry out the
3 requirements of this Act, and the activities authorized by
4 this Act are subject to the availability of appropriations
5 made in advance for such purposes.

