

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require congressional approval of any mineral withdrawal or monument designation involving the National Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota, to provide for the renewal of certain mineral leases in such lands, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. EMMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require congressional approval of any mineral withdrawal or monument designation involving the National Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota, to provide for the renewal of certain mineral leases in such lands, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SEC. 1. CONDITION ON MINERAL WITHDRAWAL OF NA-**
2 **TIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN MIN-**
3 **NESOTA.**

4 Minerals within the National Forest System lands in
5 the State of Minnesota shall not be subject to withdrawal
6 from disposition under United States mineral and geo-
7 thermal leasing law unless the withdrawal is specifically
8 approved by an Act of Congress enacted after the date
9 of the enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 2. CONDITION ON MONUMENT DESIGNATION ON NA-**
11 **TIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN MIN-**
12 **NESOTA.**

13 Section 320301 of title 54, United States Code, is
14 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
15 section:

16 “(e) LIMITATION ON EXTENSION OR ESTABLISH-
17 MENT OF A NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN MINNESOTA.—No
18 extension or establishment of national monuments on Na-
19 tional Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota may
20 be undertaken except by express authorization of Con-
21 gress.”.

22 **SECTION 3. CLARIFYING THE NATURE OF MINERAL RIGHTS**
23 **ON FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN MINNESOTA.**

24 (a) MINERAL LEASES ISSUED WITHIN FOREST SYS-
25 TEM LANDS IN MINNESOTA.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—All mineral leases issued
2 within the exterior boundaries of National Forest
3 System lands in the State of Minnesota under the
4 authority of section 508b of Title 16, United States
5 Code (64 Stat. 311), or section 402 of Reorganiza-
6 tion Plan No. 3 of 1946 (60 Stat. 1097), are inde-
7 terminate preference right leases that shall—

8 (A) be issued for an initial 20-year period;

9 and

10 (B) subject to paragraph (2), be renewable
11 after the period described in subparagraph (A)
12 for 10-year renewal periods.

13 (2) REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL.—A lease
14 may be renewed under paragraph (1)(B)—

15 (A) if the lessee complies with the terms
16 and conditions of the lease; and

17 (B) on the condition that at the end of
18 each ten-year renewal period such reasonable
19 readjustment of the terms and conditions of the
20 lease may be prescribed by the Secretary of the
21 Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of
22 Agriculture, for the purpose of—

23 (i) encouraging production; or

24 (ii) addressing changing conditions
25 within the lease area.

1 (b) SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS.—The Secretary of
2 the Interior may suspend operations under a lease de-
3 scribed in subsection (a) when—

4 (1) the lease can only be operated at a loss due
5 to market conditions; or

6 (2) operations are interrupted by strikes.

7 (c) PERMITS FOR USE OF SURFACE LANDS.—With
8 respect to lands subject to a lease pursuant to subsection
9 (a)(1), the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with
10 the Secretary of Agriculture, may issue permits for the
11 use of surface lands not included in the lease for purposes
12 connected with, and reasonably necessary to, the explo-
13 ration, development, and use of the deposits covered by
14 the lease.

15 (d) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply with
16 respect to all mineral leases described in subsection (a)(1),
17 including—

18 (1) leases that on the date of the enactment of
19 this section, are not in effect; and

20 (2) the hard rock mineral leases for the Supe-
21 rior National Forest in the Minnesota identified as
22 MNES–01352 and MNES–01353.

23 (e) EXCLUSION OF BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE
24 AREA WILDERNESS.—Nothing in this section may be con-
25 strued as permitting the prospecting for development and

- 1 utilization of mineral resources within the Boundary Wa-
- 2 ters Canoe Area Wilderness or Mine Protection Area.