

NOVEMBER 17, 2017

**RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-41**  
**H.R. 3905, MINNESOTA'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS IN**  
**THE SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST ACT**

**[Showing the text of H.R. 3905 as ordered reported by the  
Committee on Natural Resources]**

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Minnesota’s Economic  
3 Rights in the Superior National Forest Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. CONDITION ON MINERAL WITHDRAWAL OF NA-**  
5 **TIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN MIN-**  
6 **NESOTA.**

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

13 **SEC. 3. CONDITION ON MONUMENT DESIGNATION ON NA-**  
14 **TIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN MIN-**  
15 **NESOTA.**

16       Section 320301 of title 54, United States Code, is  
17 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
18 section:

1       “(e) LIMITATION ON EXTENSION OR ESTABLISH-  
2       MENT OF A NATIONAL MONUMENT IN MINNESOTA.—No  
3       extension or establishment of national monuments on Na-  
4       tional Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota may  
5       be undertaken except by express authorization of Con-  
6       gress.”.

7       **SEC. 4. CLARIFYING THE NATURE OF MINERAL RIGHTS ON**  
8       **FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN MINNESOTA.**

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

11           (1) IN GENERAL.—All mineral leases issued  
12      within the exterior boundaries of National Forest  
13      System lands in the State of Minnesota under the  
14      authority of the Act of June 30, 1950 (16 U.S.C.  
15      508b), or section 402 of Reorganization Plan No. 3  
16      of 1946 (5 U.S.C. App.), are indeterminate pref-  
17      erence right leases that—

18                   (A) shall be issued for an initial 20-year  
19      period; and

20                   (B) as provided in paragraph (2), shall be  
21      renewable after the period described in subpara-  
22      graph (A) for 10-year renewal periods.

23           (2) REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL.—A lease  
24      shall be renewed under paragraph (1)(B)—

1 (A) if the lessee has complied with the  
2 terms and conditions of the lease during the  
3 preceding lease period; and

4 (B) on the condition that, at the end of  
5 each ten-year renewal period, such reasonable  
6 readjustment of the terms and conditions of the  
7 lease may be prescribed by the Secretary of the  
8 Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of  
9 Agriculture, for the purpose of—

10 (i) encouraging production; or

11 (ii) addressing changing conditions  
12 within the lease area.

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

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

18 (2) operations are interrupted by strikes.

19 (c) PERMITS FOR USE OF SURFACE LANDS.—With  
20 respect to lands subject to a lease pursuant to subsection  
21 (a), the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the  
22 Secretary of Agriculture, may issue permits for the use  
23 of surface lands not included in the lease for purposes con-  
24 nected with, and reasonably necessary to, the exploration,  
25 development, and use of the deposits covered by the lease.

1 (d) APPLICABILITY TO MINERAL LEASES.—This sec-  
2 tion shall apply with respect to all mineral leases described  
3 in subsection (a), including—

4 (1) leases that on the date of the enactment of  
5 this section are not in effect; and

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

9 (e) APPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
10 POLICY ACT OF 1969.—The National Environmental Pol-  
11 icy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.) shall apply with  
12 respect to a mineral lease described in subsection (a). In  
13 the case of the renewal of the existing hard rock mineral  
14 leases referred to in subsection (d)(2), the Bureau of Land  
15 Management shall complete the pending environmental as-  
16 sessment no later than 30 days after the date of the enact-  
17 ment of this Act.

18 (f) EXCLUSION OF BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA  
19 WILDERNESS.—Nothing in this section may be construed  
20 as permitting the prospecting for development and utiliza-  
21 tion of mineral resources within the Boundary Waters  
22 Canoe Area Wilderness or Mine Protection Area.

