115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 3905

AN ACT

- 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 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the "Minnesota's Economic3 Rights in the Superior National Forest Act".

4 SEC. 2. CONDITION ON MINERAL WITHDRAWAL OF NA5 TIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN MIN6 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:

19 "(e) LIMITATION ON EXTENSION OR ESTABLISH20 MENT OF A NATIONAL MONUMENT IN MINNESOTA.—No
21 extension or establishment of national monuments on Na22 tional Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota may
23 be undertaken except by express authorization of Con24 gress.".

1	SEC. 4. CLARIFYING THE NATURE OF MINERAL RIGHTS ON
2	FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN MINNESOTA.
3	(a) Mineral Leases Issued Within Forest Sys-
4	tem Lands in Minnesota.—
5	(1) IN GENERAL.—All mineral leases issued
6	within the exterior boundaries of National Forest
7	System lands in the State of Minnesota under the
8	authority of the Act of June 30, 1950 (16 U.S.C.
9	508b), or section 402 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 $$
10	of 1946 (5 U.S.C. App.), are indeterminate pref-
11	erence right leases that—
12	(A) shall be issued for an initial 20-year
13	period; and
14	(B) as provided in paragraph (2), shall be
15	renewable after the period described in subpara-
16	graph (A) for 10-year renewal periods.
17	(2) Requirements for renewal.—A lease
18	shall be renewed under paragraph (1)(B)—
19	(A) if the lessee has complied with the
20	terms and conditions of the lease during the
21	preceding lease period; and
22	(B) on the condition that, at the end of
23	each 10-year renewal period, such reasonable
24	readjustment of the terms and conditions of the
25	lease may be prescribed by the Secretary of the

1	Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of
2	Agriculture, for the purpose of—
3	(i) encouraging production; or
4	(ii) addressing changing conditions
5	within the lease area.
6	(b) SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS.—The Secretary of
7	the Interior may suspend operations under a lease de-
8	scribed in subsection (a) when—
9	(1) the lease can only be operated at a loss due
10	to market conditions; or
11	(2) operations are interrupted by strikes.
12	(c) PERMITS FOR USE OF SURFACE LANDS.—With
13	respect to lands subject to a lease pursuant to subsection
14	(a), the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the
15	Secretary of Agriculture, may issue permits for the use
	Secretary of Agriculture, may issue permits for the use
16	of surface lands not included in the lease for purposes con-
16 17	
	of surface lands not included in the lease for purposes con-
17	of surface lands not included in the lease for purposes con- nected with, and reasonably necessary to, the exploration,
17 18	of surface lands not included in the lease for purposes con- nected with, and reasonably necessary to, the exploration, development, and use of the deposits covered by the lease.
17 18 19	of surface lands not included in the lease for purposes con- nected with, and reasonably necessary to, the exploration, development, and use of the deposits covered by the lease. (d) APPLICABILITY TO MINERAL LEASES.—This sec-

this section are not in effect; and

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

4 (e) Applicability of National Environmental POLICY ACT OF 1969.—The National Environmental Pol-5 icy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.) shall apply with 6 7 respect to a mineral lease described in subsection (a). In 8 the case of the renewal of the existing hard rock mineral 9 leases referred to in subsection (d)(2), the Bureau of Land 10 Management shall complete the pending environmental as-11 sessment no later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. 12

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

Passed the House of Representatives November 30, 2017.

Attest:

Clerk.

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