

**House Natural Resources Committee Republicans and Congressional Western Caucus joint forum:
Minnesota Mining and American Potential: An Opportunity for a Brighter and More Secure Future
Thursday, January 13 at 10 a.m. ET**

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Talking Points – 3-minute remarks (average 400-420 words)

I am honored to be here today to speak on behalf of Jobs for Minnesotans, a unique coalition that brings together labor unions, businesses, and local communities; and represents over 70,000 members of the building trades, over 2,300 members of the Minnesota Chamber, the 500,000 they employ, and hundreds more local chamber members, mayors and residents of our state. Together, we support statewide opportunities for prosperity and family sustaining jobs from responsible industrial projects.

Our message since our coalition was founded has always been: follow the science and the regulatory processes. The withdrawal does the exact opposite for Minnesota. Instead, it would place the potential for thousands of jobs, billions of dollars in wages and regional economic investment, and revenues for Minnesota schools at risk.

The people I represent deeply cherish our waters and our natural environment. The Continental Divide in Minnesota makes us the headwaters for watersheds that travel to the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic Ocean and Hudson Bay. We are committed to the principle that our state can both create job opportunities and preserve the beautiful environment that surrounds us through following the rigorous, regulatory processes currently outlined in state and federal laws, implementing modern mining practices, and securing financial assurances to ensure safe, accountable mining operations.

Mining has been the lifeblood of northeast Minnesota for over a century, supporting communities with family sustaining jobs. It has existed in harmony with our other core industries like forest products, transportation, health care, education and tourism. To thrive, our communities need new investment driving a diverse economy that includes hard rock mining.

Minnesota can be a key part of the solution to bring critical and insecure supply chains home to the U.S. We have the domestic mineral resources including nickel, cobalt and copper. We also have well-established mining infrastructure, and an experienced, professional and well-trained Minnesota workforce. We should build the mines and the needed processing technologies here. Now.

Instead of US minerals self-sufficiency and future prosperity, we could instead have the door slammed shut by politically motivated actions. I am completely baffled by how agencies will conduct a valid, science-based environmental assessment on this vast acreage without studying an actual mine plan? Trust the science and the regulators to look at what will be mined, where will it be mined, where will the ore be processed, and what environmental controls and water quality treatments will be used!

We are shutting the door on opportunity in this country and punting the responsibility of extracting minerals we ourselves are demanding to other parts of the world with no control over environmental or worker standards. We can and should safely mine here. We can have both jobs and clean water. Trust the science and trust our regulators.