



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members
From: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Staff
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025
Subject: Markup of 8 bills

The House Committee on Natural Resources will hold a markup on **Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in room 1324 Longworth House Office Building**. The bills to be considered include: H.R. 1366 (Rep. Amodei); H.R. 2306 (Rep. Moolenaar); H.R. 2815 (Rep. Begich); H.R. 2916 (Rep. Stefanik); H.R. 3692 (Rep. Moulton); H.R. 3872 (Rep. Fallon); H.R. 4090 (Rep. Stauber); and H.R. 4256 (Rep. Min).

Member offices are requested to notify Madeline Kelley (Madeline.Kelley@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, to confirm their Member's attendance at the markup.

I. KEY MESSAGES & TOPLINE ACTIONS

- Bills expected to move by regular order: H.R. 1366 (Rep. Amodei), "*Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2025*" and H.R. 4090 (Rep. Stauber), To codify certain provisions of certain Executive Orders relating to domestic mining and hardrock mineral resources, and for other purposes.
- Please note that H.R. 1366 and H.R. 4090 will each have an amendment in the nature of a substitute (ANS). Members should ensure that amendments are drafted to the ANS.
- Bills expected to move by unanimous consent: H.R. 2306 (Rep. Moolenaar), "*The Adams Memorial-Great American Heroes Act*"; H.R. 2815 (Rep. Begich), "*Cape Fox Land Entitlement Finalization Act of 2025*"; H.R. 2916 (Rep. Stefanik), To authorize, ratify, and confirm the Agreement of Settlement and Compromise to Resolve the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim in the State of New York, and for other purposes.; H.R. 3692 (Rep. Moulton), To reauthorize the Young Fishermen's Development Act.; H.R. 3872 (Rep. Fallon), "*Mineral Extraction for Renewable Industry and Critical Applications Act of 2025*" or the "*MERICA Act of 2025*"; and H.R. 4256 (Rep. Min), "*Digital Coast Reauthorization Act of 2025*".

II. EXPECTED LEGISLATION

H.R. 1366 (Rep. Amodei), the “*Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2025*”

In May 2022, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed a lower court decision revoking the approved mine plan of operation for the Rosemont Copper Mine Project, which is partially located within the Coronado National Forest in Pima County, Arizona.¹ The Center for Biological Diversity and other special interest groups challenged the Rosemont mine plan, focusing on whether the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) could approve discarding overburden (waste rock) without first verifying the validity of the mining claims where the overburden would be stored. The Ninth Circuit’s *Rosemont* decision requires USFS to establish claim validity *prior* to approvals of ancillary use facilities on mining claims.² This new requirement upends more than 40 years of mining regulatory precedent and over a century of interpretation of the General Mining Law of 1872.³ It also ignores specific USFS regulations that allow approvals of operations “on or off a mining claim,” so long as those operations meet environmental and regulatory standards.⁴

Recognizing these implications, the Trump administration is working to address the *Rosemont* decision. Section 4 of Executive Order (EO) 14241, “Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production,”⁵ attempts to ameliorate *Rosemont*’s effects by requiring the Chair of the National Energy Dominance Council and the Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs to jointly submit recommendations for the President and Congress to clarify “the treatment of waste rock, tailings, and mine waste disposal under the Mining Act of 1872.”⁶ Sponsored by Representative Mark Amodei (R-NV-02), H.R. 1366 is not targeted at any single mining site but instead seeks to restore the longstanding certainty needed for mine operations across the nation. This bill would allow the U.S. to meet the extraordinary mineral demand required for domestic manufacturing, energy, and infrastructure needs, which are vital to our economy and national security. It does this by creating a new category of mill sites to ensure that operators can use federal lands, whether mineral or non-mineral in character, for activities ancillary to mining.

The legislation also creates the “Abandoned Hardrock Mine Fund” (Fund), which would support the abandoned hardrock mine reclamation program (Program) created under section 40704 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.⁷ The Program was created to inventory, assess, decommission, reclaim, respond to hazardous substance releases on, and remediate abandoned hardrock mine lands. The Fund would obtain solvency from claim maintenance fees paid on the new mill site claims created by the legislation. At markup, an ANS will be offered, making technical changes.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be

¹ *Ctr. for Biological Diversity v. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv.*, 33 F.4th 1202 (9th Cir. 2022).

² *Id.*

³ Sess. 2, ch. 152, 17 Stat. 91–96.

⁴ 36 CFR Subpart A - Subpart A—Locatable Minerals. <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/36/part-228/subpart-A>.

⁵ Executive Order 14241, “Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production,” The White House, March 20, 2025 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/immediate-measures-to-increase-american-mineral-production/>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ 30 U.S.C. 1245.

viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 2306 (Rep. Moolenaar), “*The Adams Memorial-Great American Heroes Act*”

The Adams family is one of the most influential founding families in American history, with John Adams, Abigail Adams, and John Quincy Adams making lasting contributions to U.S. democracy.⁸ Yet, no memorial in Washington, D.C., honors their legacy. Congress first authorized the creation of such a memorial in 2001 and designated a location within Area 1 (an area located *near* the National Mall in Washington, D.C.) in 2002.⁹ Despite initial progress, the Adams Memorial faced challenges related to site selection, approvals, and fundraising, and the authority ultimately expired in 2020.¹⁰ To revitalize this effort, Congress established the Adams Memorial Commission (Commission), whose authorization expires in 2025.¹¹ H.R. 2306, sponsored by Representative John Moolenaar (R-MI-02), reauthorizes the Commission for seven years and allows the Memorial to be constructed within the Reserve (an area that generally encompasses the National Mall, the White House, and the areas around the Tidal Basin). At markup, an ANS will be offered by Chairman Westerman, removing an un-offset authorization of appropriations and refining the location of the Memorial.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 2815 (Rep. Begich), “*Cape Fox Land Entitlement Finalization Act of 2025*”

In 1971, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was enacted to settle the aboriginal land claims of Alaska Natives.¹² Through ANCSA, Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) were established to receive land under the settlement and disperse the payments to Alaska Natives.¹³ Under ANCSA, the Cape Fox Corporation (CFC), the Alaska Native Village Corporation for Saxman, Alaska, is entitled to an additional 180 acres.

Since 2022, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the agency responsible for conveying the remaining acres, has proposed 184.57 acres to complete the entitlement.¹⁴ However, the CFC has formally rejected the proposal, as the lands were outside the core township, noncontiguous with

⁸ “John Adams,” Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Adams-president-of-United-States/Continental-Congress>.

⁹ P.L. 107-315.

¹⁰ H. Rept. 115-566.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² 43 U.S.C. 1601, et seq.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Briefing Paper and Background on H.R. 2815, “*Cape Fox Land Entitlement Finalization Act of 2025*,” March 2025. On file.

land holdings, and of limited economic value.¹⁵ Instead, the CFC identified 180 acres of land between existing parcels to connect its land and complete the settlement.

These acres would enable the development of the Mahoney Lake Power Project.¹⁶ CFC holds a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license and an easement for a powerline/road corridor to the Beaver Falls substation, and it owns land adjacent to the substation. In 2024, all available power, approximately 38 MW, was online. Yet, the power demand exceeded the supply, and scheduled brownouts were required. Additional power is needed to sustain the current demand and provide for economic growth.

By conveying the 180 acres, H.R. 2815, introduced by Representative Nick Begich (R-AK-At Large), would finalize CFC's ANCSA land conveyance and streamline access and management, which will allow new power production capacity to be brought online.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#), and a map of the parcels can be found [here](#).

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[H.R. 2916](#) (Rep. Stefanik), To authorize, ratify, and confirm the Agreement of Settlement and Compromise to Resolve the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim in the State of New York, and for other purposes.

Located on the border of New York State and Canada, and spanning two counties along the St. Lawrence River, is the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT).¹⁷

The SRMT is part of the Iroquois Confederacy, with ancestral lands spanning over 15,000 square miles from the St. Lawrence River to the Delaware River, and from the West-Canada Unadilla Creek to the Hudson River.¹⁸ Despite migration and immigration throughout the 1600s and 1700s, the Mohawks remained in the area, and following the Revolutionary War, the Seven Nations of Canada and the State of New York signed the 1796 treaty, which gave the SRMT its reservation.¹⁹ In 1824 and 1825, the State of New York acquired land from the SRMT; however, this land transaction did not involve the federal government. The Non-Intercourse Act, one of the earliest laws passed by Congress after the ratification of the Constitution, reserved for the United States the exclusive right to acquire Indian lands.²⁰ As the federal government did not participate in the transfer of the SRM Land, the SRMT and its Canadian counterpart, MCA, have sought to invalidate the transaction and return these lands to tribal ownership.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ FERC Project #11393.

¹⁷ Tiller, Veronica E. Velarde. *Tiller's Guide to Indian Country: Economic Profiles of American Indian Reservations*. 3rd ed. Pg. 582.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ Tiller, Veronica E. Velarde. *Tiller's Guide to Indian Country: Economic Profiles of American Indian Reservations*. 3rd ed. Pg. 582.

²⁰ 25 U.S.C. §177.

Beginning in 1982, the parties of the SRMT, the State of New York, and the New York Power Authority (NYPA) have worked throughout the court system and different iterations of a settlement to come to an agreement on the land claim settlement.²¹ The settlement at the core of H.R. 2916 is the culmination of years of work by all parties involved. The settlement includes negotiated terms that resolve long-standing concerns amongst the parties. Specifically, the SRMT would receive approximately 3,500 acres of land returned to reservation status, including the Hogansburg Triangle, and can acquire, from willing sellers, up to 14,000 additional acres. Tuition and mandatory fees are waived for all Akwesasne Mohawk students attending a State University of New York institution. SRMT will also be able to acquire 9 megawatts of power from NYPA at a preferred rate. Notably, the settlement does not require federal monetary contribution. The SRMT agrees to adhere to all New York State building codes, and clear boundaries are established for the SRMT's reservation with respect to judicial jurisdiction, with a forum for disagreement resolution through discussion rather than the court system.²²

Negotiated settlements related to Indian land claims pursuant to the Non-Intercourse Act require congressional approval.²³ Sponsored by Representative Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21), H.R. 2916 would authorize, ratify, and confirm the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim Settlement Agreement and bring reconciliation after four decades of uncertainty.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 3692 (Rep. Moulton), To reauthorize the Young Fishermen's Development Act.

In 2020, Congress passed the Young Fishermen's Development Act (Public Law 116–289), which was signed into law on January 5, 2021. This legislation created the Young Fishermen's Development Grant Program and directed the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the National Sea Grant Office, to “make competitive grants to support new and established local and regional training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fishermen.”²⁴ This program established criteria for the types of activities that these grants could support, set a limit of \$200,000 per fiscal year, and imposed a term limit of no more than three fiscal years.²⁵

²¹ See, e.g., *Canadian St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians v. New York*, 146 F. Supp. 2d 170 (N.D.N.Y. 2001); *Canadian St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians v. New York*, 573 F. Supp. 1530 (N.D.N.Y. 1983).

²² Agreement of Settlement and Compromise to Resolve the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim in the State of New York. On file. The Office of Congresswoman Elise Stefanik. Stefanik Introduces Legislation Ratifying the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim Settlement Agreement. April 2025. <https://stefanik.house.gov/2025/4/stefanik-introduces-legislation-ratifying-the-akwesasne-mohawk-land-claim-settlement-agreement>.

²³ 25 U.S.C. §177.

²⁴ P.L. 116-289, “Young Fishermen's Development Act,” <https://www.congress.gov/116/statute/STATUTE-134/STATUTE-134-Pg4886.pdf>.

²⁵ *Id.*

The statute also directed the Secretary of Commerce to ensure regional balance in awarding grants.²⁶ The grant program was initially authorized through Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.

H.R. 3692, introduced by Representative Seth Moulton (D-MA-06), reauthorizes the Young Fishermen’s Development Act, with all the existing criteria and guardrails, through FY 2031.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 3872 (Rep. Fallon), “*Mineral Extraction for Renewable Industry and Critical Applications Act of 2025*” or the “*MERICA Act of 2025*”

The Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (MLAAL) typically governs mineral leasing on acquired federal lands. However, while minerals such as coal, phosphate, oil and gas, gilsonite, and sulfur are listed as “deposits subject to a lease” under MLAAL, the law doesn’t reference hardrock minerals.²⁷ As a result, hardrock mineral leasing may occur only on those acquired lands where specific authority exists under the statute used to acquire the land in question.²⁸ For example, the Act of June 30, 1950, allows hardrock mineral leasing on acquired National Forest lands in Minnesota.²⁹

MLAAL’s omission of hardrock minerals has effectively locked up federally acquired lands that hold critical mineral resources. In northeast Texas, for example, the BLM is unable to conduct leasing for a valuable lithium deposit because the deposit is located on land acquired by the federal government over 80 years ago.³⁰

H.R. 3872, the “MERICA Act,” sponsored by Representative Pat Fallon (R-TX-04), would address this issue by amending MLAAL to clarify that all federally acquired lands are eligible to be considered for hardrock mineral leasing. This legislation would provide the Secretary of the Interior with the legal authority needed to carry out President Trump’s EO entitled “Immediate Measures to Increase Mineral Production,” which directs executive branch departments to prioritize mineral leasing and development on federally managed lands.³¹ By ensuring access to America’s vast resources, the MERICA Act will help to strengthen our economy, bolster national security, and maintain U.S. leadership in responsible mineral development. At markup, an ANS will be offered, making technical changes.

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ 30 U.S. Code § 352 - Deposits subject to lease; consent of department heads; lands excluded, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/30/352>.

²⁸ 43 CFR 3503.13, “For what areas may I receive a hardrock mineral permit or lease?” <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-43/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-C/part-3500/subpart-3503/subject-group-ECFR52b19836ee2e1b/section-3503.13>.

²⁹ 16 USC 508b: National forests in Minnesota; authority to prospect, develop, mine, remove, and utilize mineral resources, [https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=\(title:16%20section:508b%20edition:prelim\)#:~:text=16%20USC%20508b%3A%20National%20forests,remove%2C%20and%20utilize%20mineral%20resources](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:16%20section:508b%20edition:prelim)#:~:text=16%20USC%20508b%3A%20National%20forests,remove%2C%20and%20utilize%20mineral%20resources).

³⁰ EMR Majority Staff Correspondence with BLM, January 13, 2025.

³¹ Executive Order 14241, “Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production,” The White House, March 20, 2025 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/immediate-measures-to-increase-american-mineral-production/>.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 4090 (Rep. Stauber), To codify certain provisions of certain Executive Orders relating to domestic mining and hardrock mineral resources, and for other purposes.

From day one of his second term, President Trump swiftly enacted new EOs to put the U.S. on a path toward mineral dominance. Collectively, EO 14154, “Unleashing American Energy,”³² EO 14241, “Immediate Measures to Increase Mineral Production,”³³ and EO 14272, “Ensuring National Security and Economic Resilience Through Section 232 Actions on Processed Critical Minerals and Derivative Products,”³⁴ direct federal agencies to expand mineral production on federal lands, accelerate approvals of priority projects, and analyze mineral supply chain vulnerabilities.

Led by Representative Pete Stauber (R-MN-08), H.R. 4090 would codify provisions of these EOs that fall within the House Committee on Natural Resources’ jurisdiction and require new studies that support underlying mineral production and supply chain objectives identified by the Trump administration. First, the bill would order the Department of the Interior (DOI) to annually report on the dollar value and overall economic impact of each mineral commodity for which the U.S. is import-reliant. Next, H.R. 4090 would require the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to identify priority mining projects on federal lands that can be immediately approved and take all necessary and appropriate steps to expedite these projects. Additionally, this legislation would direct the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to identify all federal lands in their respective jurisdictions that may be suitable for hardrock mineral exploration, development, or production, as well as potential sites for expanded production of hardrock minerals and their byproducts.

H.R. 4090 would also address legal and regulatory bottlenecks to domestic mining. Specifically, the bill would direct DOI to revise or rescind agency actions that hinder mining projects, recommend changes to current law necessary to streamline domestic mining, and conduct a nationwide review of state and local laws or regulations that impede mineral exploration and development. Lastly, H.R. 4090 would direct DOI to accelerate geologic mapping of the U.S., with a focus on hardrock mineral deposits. At markup, an ANS will be offered, making technical changes and adding a new definition of ‘mining project.’

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be

³² Executive Order, “Unleashing American Energy,” The White House, January 20, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/unleashing-american-energy/>.

³³ Executive Order, “Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production,” The White House, March 20, 2025 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/immediate-measures-to-increase-american-mineral-production/>.

³⁴ Executive Order 14272, “Ensuring National Security and Economic Resilience Through Section 232 Actions on Processed Critical Minerals and Derivative Products,” The White House, April 15, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/ensuring-national-security-and-economic-resilience-through-section-232-actions-on-processed-critical-minerals-and-derivative-products/>.

viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 4256 (Rep. Min), “*Digital Coast Reauthorization Act of 2025*”

In December 2020, President Trump signed into law the Digital Coast Act,³⁵ which formally authorized the Digital Coast program through FY 2025 and provided the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with the mandate to continue delivering data and tools to support coastal communities. Led by NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management, Digital Coast is a centralized online platform that offers tools, training, and other resources that are tailored to help coastal communities make informed, data-driven decisions.³⁶ The platform includes a wide array of features—such as high-quality coastal datasets, interactive tools, and online training courses—to help effectively manage coastal communities and ecosystems across the U.S.³⁷ According to a recent study, Digital Coast’s training programs have generated between \$1.8 million and \$9.7 million in annual benefits.³⁸

H.R. 4256, sponsored by Representative Dave Min (D-CA-47), reauthorizes the Digital Coast Program at existing levels through FY 2030.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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III. CBO SCORES

None available.

IV. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

[H.R. 1366](#)

[H.R. 2306](#)

[H.R. 3692](#)

[H.R. 3872](#)

[H.R. 4256](#)

³⁵ P.L. 116-223, Digital Coast Act, <https://www.congress.gov/116/statute/STATUTE-134/STATUTE-134-Pg1067.pdf>.

³⁶ “What is Digital Coast?” National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, June 16, 2024, <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/digital-coast.html>.

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ “About Digital Coast,” National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Coastal Management, July 22, 2025, [https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/about/#:~:text=The%20Digital%20Coast%20\(authorized%20by,make%20these%20data%20truly%20useful.](https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/about/#:~:text=The%20Digital%20Coast%20(authorized%20by,make%20these%20data%20truly%20useful.)