

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA
TO THE
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1335
OFFERED BY MR. WESTERMAN

Strike title III and insert the following (and conform
the table of contents accordingly):

1 **TITLE III—CLEAN ENERGY**
2 **MINERALS REFORM**

3 **SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This title may be cited as the “Clean Energy Min-
5 erals Reform Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS AND REFERENCES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—As used in this title:

8 (1) The term “adjacent land” means any land
9 not more than two miles from the boundary of a de-
10 scribed land tract.

11 (2) The term “affiliate” means, with respect to
12 any person, any of the following:

13 (A) Any person who controls, is controlled
14 by, or is under common control with such per-
15 son.

16 (B) Any partner of such person.

1 (C) Any person owning at least 10 percent
2 of the voting shares of such person.

3 (3) The term “agency” means any authority of
4 the United States that is an “agency” under section
5 3502(1) of title 44, United States Code.

6 (4) The term “applicant” means any person ap-
7 plying for a permit, license, or lease under this title
8 or a modification to or a renewal of a permit, li-
9 cense, or lease under this title.

10 (5) The term “beneficiation” means the crush-
11 ing and grinding of hardrock mineral ore and such
12 processes as are employed to free the mineral from
13 other constituents, including physical and chemical
14 separation techniques.

15 (6) The term “casual use”—

16 (A) subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C),
17 means mineral activities that do not ordinarily
18 result in any disturbance of public lands and re-
19 sources;

20 (B) includes collection of geochemical,
21 rock, soil, or mineral specimens using
22 handtools, hand panning, or nonmotorized sluic-
23 ing; and

24 (C) does not include—

1 (i) the use of mechanized earth-mov-
2 ing equipment, suction dredging, or explo-
3 sives;

4 (ii) the use of motor vehicles in areas
5 closed to off-road vehicles;

6 (iii) the construction of roads or drill
7 pads; and

8 (iv) the use of toxic or hazardous ma-
9 terials.

10 (7) The term “claim holder” means a person
11 holding a mining claim, millsite claim, or tunnel site
12 claim located under the general mining laws and
13 maintained in compliance with such laws. Such term
14 may include an agent of a claim holder.

15 (8) The term “control” means having the abil-
16 ity, directly or indirectly, to determine (without re-
17 gard to whether exercised through one or more cor-
18 porate structures) the manner in which an entity
19 conducts mineral activities, through any means, in-
20 cluding ownership interest, authority to commit the
21 entity’s real or financial assets, position as a direc-
22 tor, officer, or partner of the entity, or contractual
23 arrangement.

1 (9) The term “crude ore” means ore in its un-
2 processed form, containing profitable amounts of the
3 target mineral.

4 (10) The term “displaced material” means any
5 crude ore and waste dislodged from its location at
6 the time hardrock mineral activities begin at a sur-
7 face, underground, or in-situ mine.

8 (11) The term “exploration”—

9 (A) subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C),
10 means creating surface disturbance other than
11 casual use, to evaluate the type, extent, quan-
12 tity, or quality of minerals present;

13 (B) includes mineral activities associated
14 with sampling, drilling, and analyzing hardrock
15 mineral values; and

16 (C) does not include extraction of mineral
17 material for commercial use or sale.

18 (12) The term “Federal land” means any land,
19 and any interest in land, that is owned by the
20 United States, except lands in the National Park
21 System, Indian lands, and lands on the Outer Conti-
22 nental Shelf.

23 (13) The term “Abandoned Hardrock Mine
24 Reclamation Program” means the program estab-
25 lished in section 40704 of the Infrastructure Invest-

1 ment and Jobs Act (30 U.S.C. 1245; Public Law
2 117–58).

3 (14) The term “Indian lands” means lands held
4 in trust for the benefit of an Indian Tribe or indi-
5 vidual or held by an Indian Tribe or individual sub-
6 ject to a restriction by the United States against
7 alienation, or held by an Alaska Native village, vil-
8 lage corporation, or regional corporation as defined
9 in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native
10 Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

11 (15) The term “Indian Tribe” means any In-
12 dian Tribe, band, nation, pueblo, or other organized
13 group or community, including any Alaska Native
14 village, village corporation, or regional corporation
15 as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska
16 Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et
17 seq.), that is recognized as eligible for the special
18 programs and services provided by the United States
19 to Indians because of their status as Indians.

20 (16) The term “hardrock mineral”—

21 (A) subject to subparagraph (B), means
22 any mineral that was subject to location under
23 the general mining laws as of the date of enact-
24 ment of this Act, and that is not subject to dis-
25 position under—

1 (i) the Mineral Leasing Act (30
2 U.S.C. 181 et seq.);

3 (ii) the Geothermal Steam Act of
4 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.);

5 (iii) the Act of July 31, 1947, com-
6 monly known as the Materials Act of 1947
7 (30 U.S.C. 601 et seq.); or

8 (iv) the Mineral Leasing for Acquired
9 Lands Act (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.); and

10 (B) does not include any mineral that is
11 subject to a restriction against alienation im-
12 posed by the United States and is—

13 (i) held in trust by the United States
14 for any Indian or Indian Tribe, as defined
15 in section 2 of the Indian Mineral Develop-
16 ment Act of 1982 (25 U.S.C. 2101); or

17 (ii) owned by any Indian or Indian
18 Tribe, as defined in that section.

19 (17) The term “mineral activities” means any
20 activity on a mining claim, millsite claim, or tunnel
21 site claim, or a lease, license, or permit issued under
22 this title, for, related to, or incidental to, mineral ex-
23 ploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, or rec-
24 lamation activities for any hardrock mineral.

1 (18) The term “memorandum of agreement”
2 means a document that records the terms and condi-
3 tions agreed upon by an agency and an Indian Tribe
4 through the consultation process regarding an activ-
5 ity.

6 (19) The term “National Conservation System
7 unit” means any unit of the National Park System,
8 National Wildlife Refuge System, National Wild and
9 Scenic Rivers System, National Wilderness Preserva-
10 tion System, National Landscape Conservation Sys-
11 tem, or National Trails System, or a National Con-
12 servation Area, a National Recreation Area, a Wil-
13 derness Study Area, a National Monument, or any
14 unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System
15 or lands within the National Forest System, includ-
16 ing:

17 (A) National Volcanic Monuments.

18 (B) Recreation Areas, Scenic Recreation
19 Areas, and Winter Recreation Areas.

20 (C) Scenic Areas, Scenic-Research Areas,
21 Scenic Highways, National Scenic and Wildlife
22 Areas.

23 (D) National Game and Wildlife Preserves.

24 (E) Special Management, Wildlife, Con-
25 servation and Protection Areas, including bo-

1 tanical, hydrological (watershed), geological,
2 historical, paleontological, and zoological areas.

3 (F) Experimental Forests, Ranges, and
4 Watersheds.

5 (G) Research Sites and Research Natural
6 Areas.

7 (H) Inventoried Roadless Area, Colorado
8 Roadless Area, and Idaho Roadless Area.

9 (I) Recommended Wilderness and Primi-
10 tive Areas.

11 (20) The term “operator” means any person
12 proposing or authorized by a permit issued under
13 this title to conduct mineral activities and any agent
14 of such person.

15 (21) The term “person” means an individual,
16 Indian Tribe, partnership, association, society, joint
17 venture, joint stock company, firm, company, cor-
18 poration, cooperative, or other organization and any
19 instrumentality of State or local government includ-
20 ing any publicly owned utility or publicly owned cor-
21 poration of State or local government.

22 (22) The term “processing” means processes
23 downstream of beneficiation employed to prepare
24 locatable mineral ore into the final marketable prod-
25 uct, including smelting and electrolytic refining.

1 (23) The term “sacred site” means any specific
2 delineated location on Federal land that is identified
3 by an Indian Tribe—

4 (A) as sacred by virtue of its established
5 religious significance to, or ceremonial use by,
6 an Indian religion; or

7 (B) to be of established cultural signifi-
8 cance.

9 (24) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
10 of the Interior, unless otherwise specified.

11 (25) The term “Secretary concerned” means—

12 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture (acting
13 through the Chief of the Forest Service) with
14 respect to National Forest System land; and

15 (B) the Secretary of the Interior (acting
16 through the Director of the Bureau of Land
17 Management) with respect to other Federal
18 land.

19 (26)(A) The term “small miner” means a per-
20 son (including all related parties thereto) that—

21 (i) holds not more than 10 mining claims,
22 mill sites, or tunnel sites, or any combination
23 thereof, on public lands;

1 (ii) holds leases and permits under this
2 title with respect to not more than 200 acres of
3 Federal land;

4 (iii) certifies to the Secretary in writing
5 that the person had annual gross income in the
6 preceding calendar year from mineral produc-
7 tion in an amount less than \$50,000; and

8 (iv) has performed assessment work re-
9 quired under the Mining Law of 1872 (30
10 U.S.C. 28 et seq.) to maintain any mining
11 claims held by the person (including such re-
12 lated parties) for the assessment year ending on
13 noon of September 1 of the calendar year in
14 which payment of the claim maintenance fee
15 was due.

16 (B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), with re-
17 spect to any person, the term “all related parties”
18 means—

19 (i) the spouse and dependent children (as
20 defined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue
21 Code of 1986), of the person concerned; or

22 (ii) a person affiliated with the person con-
23 cerned, including—

1 (I) another person controlled by, con-
2 trolling, or under common control with the
3 person concerned; or

4 (II) a subsidiary or parent company
5 or corporation of the person concerned.

6 (C) For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii), the
7 dollar amount shall be applied, for a person, to the
8 aggregate of all annual gross income from mineral
9 production under all mining claims held by or as-
10 signed to such person or all related parties with re-
11 spect to such person, including mining claims lo-
12 cated or for which a patent was issued before the
13 date of enactment of this Act.

14 (27) The term “temporary cessation” means a
15 halt in mine-related production activities for a con-
16 tinuous period of no longer than 5 years.

17 (28) The term “ton” means 2,000 pounds av-
18 oirdupois (.90718 metric ton).

19 (29) The term “undue degradation” means ir-
20 reparable harm to significant scientific, cultural, or
21 environmental resources on public lands.

22 (30) The term “valuable mineral deposit”
23 means a deposit of hardrock minerals that is of suf-
24 ficient value for a prudent operator to economically
25 mine.

1 (31) The term “waste” means rock that must
2 be fractured and removed in order to gain access to
3 crude ore.

4 (b) REFERENCES TO OTHER LAWS.—

5 (1) GENERAL MINING LAWS.—Any reference in
6 this title to the term “general mining laws” is a ref-
7 erence to those Acts that generally comprise chap-
8 ters 2, 12A, and 16, and sections 161 and 162, of
9 title 30, United States Code.

10 (2) ACT OF JULY 23, 1955.—Any reference in
11 this title to the Act of July 23, 1955, is a reference
12 to the Act entitled “An Act to amend the Act of
13 July 31, 1947 (61 Stat. 681) and the mining laws
14 to provide for multiple use of the surface of the
15 same tracts of the public lands, and for other pur-
16 poses” (30 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

17 **SEC. 303. APPLICATION RULES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—This title applies to any mining
19 claim, millsite claim, or tunnel site claim located under
20 the general mining laws, before or on the date of enact-
21 ment of this Act.

22 (b) APPLICATION OF ACT TO BENEFICIATION AND
23 PROCESSING OF NON-FEDERAL MINERALS ON FEDERAL
24 LANDS.—The provisions of this title shall apply in the
25 same manner and to the same extent to mining claims,

1 millsite claims, tunnel site claims, and any land included
2 in a lease or license issued under this title, used for
3 beneficiation or processing activities for any hardrock min-
4 eral.

5 **Subtitle A—Mineral Leasing,**
6 **Exploration, and Development**

7 **SEC. 311. CLOSURE TO ENTRY AND LOCATION.**

8 (a) CLOSURE.—Except as otherwise provided in this
9 section, as of the effective date of this Act all Federal
10 lands are closed to entry and location under the general
11 mining laws, and no new rights under the general mining
12 laws may be acquired.

13 (b) EXISTING NONPRODUCING CLAIMS.—

14 (1) CLAIMS WITHOUT PLAN OF OPERATIONS.—

15 Any claim under the general mining laws existing on
16 the effective date of this Act for which a plan of op-
17 erations is not approved, or a notice of operations is
18 not filed, before such date shall be subject to the re-
19 quirements of this title, and may remain in effect
20 until not later than the end of the 10-year period be-
21 ginning on the date of enactment of this Act if the
22 claimholder remains in compliance with section 109,
23 unless the claim holder—

24 (A) relinquishes the claim; or

1 (B) demonstrates eligibility for a lease and
2 requests conversion under the regulations
3 issued under subsection (d).

4 (2) SHORTENING OF PERIOD.—The 10-year pe-
5 riod referred to in paragraph (1) shall be shortened
6 to 3 years if—

7 (A) the claim is for an area that is located
8 in an area withdrawn or temporarily segregated
9 from location under the general mining laws as
10 of the effective date of this Act; or

11 (B) the claim belongs to a small miner.

12 (3) CONVERSION.—Upon showing to the satis-
13 faction of the Secretary of a valuable mineral deposit
14 on lands subject to such a claim, the Secretary may
15 convert the claim to a noncompetitive lease under
16 the regulations issued under subsection (d).

17 (4) CLAIMS NOT CONVERTED.—Any such claims
18 not converted to leases at the end of the applicable
19 period under paragraph (1) or (2) shall be consid-
20 ered invalid and void.

21 (c) EXISTING CLAIMS WITH PLAN OF OPERATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any claim
23 under the general mining laws for which a plan of
24 operations has been approved but for which oper-

1 ations have not commenced before the date of enact-
2 ment of this Act—

3 (A) during the 10-year period beginning on
4 the date of enactment of this Act—

5 (i) mineral activities on lands subject
6 to such claim shall be subject to such plan
7 of operations; and

8 (ii) modification of such plan may be
9 made in accordance with the provisions of
10 law applicable before the date of enactment
11 of this Act if such modifications are con-
12 sidered minor by the Secretary concerned;
13 and

14 (B) the operator shall bring such mineral
15 activities into compliance with this title by the
16 end of such 10-year period.

17 (2) ACTIVITIES PENDING DECISION ON MODI-
18 FICATION TO PLAN OF OPERATIONS.—If an applica-
19 tion for modification of a plan of operations referred
20 to in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) has been timely submitted
21 and an approved plan expires before the Secretary
22 concerned takes action on the application, mineral
23 activities and reclamation may continue in accord-
24 ance with the terms of the expired plan until such

1 Secretary makes an administrative decision on the
2 application.

3 (3) CONVERSION REQUIREMENT.—Any claims
4 referred to in paragraph (1) may remain in effect
5 for a period of up to 10 years. Any claim not con-
6 verted to a lease under subsection (d) before the end
7 of that period shall be subject to a fee of \$100 per
8 acre per day until the claim is converted to a lease.
9 (d) CONVERSION REGULATIONS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall issue
11 regulations not later than 1 year after the date of
12 enactment of this Act to provide for the conversion
13 of mining claims to noncompetitive mining leases.

14 (2) CONTENT.—The regulations issued under
15 paragraph (1) shall—

16 (A) prohibit the conversion of a mining
17 claim to a mining lease by a claimholder who is
18 in violation of this title or other State or Fed-
19 eral environmental, health, or worker safety
20 law;

21 (B) allow the Secretary to exercise discre-
22 tion to include nonmineral lands within the
23 boundaries of any mill site associated with the
24 mining claim to be converted to a noncompeti-
25 tive lease;

1 (C) prohibit the area in any noncompetitive
2 mining lease issued under this subsection to ex-
3 ceed the maximum area authorized by this title
4 to be leased to any person;

5 (D) require the consent of the surface
6 managing agency for conversion of a mining
7 claim to a noncompetitive mining lease;

8 (E) require the fiscal terms of the con-
9 verted noncompetitive mining lease to be the
10 same as provided in this title for other hardrock
11 mining leases;

12 (F) require compliance with all provisions
13 of this title; and

14 (G) include any other terms the Secretary
15 considers appropriate.

16 (e) NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT.—The
17 Secretary is not required to conduct an environmental
18 analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of
19 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for the issuance of a non-
20 competitive lease under this section, unless the non-
21 competitive lease modifies or extends the surface disturb-
22 ance already authorized under a mine plan of operations
23 covering the mining claim that is converted.

24 **SEC. 312. LIMITATION ON PATENTS.**

25 (a) MINING CLAIMS.—

1 (1) DETERMINATIONS REQUIRED.—After the
2 date of enactment of this Act, no patent shall be
3 issued by the United States for any mining claim lo-
4 cated under the general mining laws unless the Sec-
5 retary determines that, for the claim concerned—

6 (A) a patent application was filed with the
7 Secretary on or before September 30, 1994;
8 and

9 (B) all requirements established under sec-
10 tions 2325 and 2326 of the Revised Statutes
11 (30 U.S.C. 29 and 30), in the case of a vein or
12 lode claim, or sections 2329, 2330, 2331, and
13 2333 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 35,
14 36, and 37), in the case of a placer claim, were
15 fully complied with by that date.

16 (2) RIGHT TO PATENT.—If the Secretary makes
17 the determinations referred to in subparagraphs (A)
18 and (B) of paragraph (1) for any mining claim, the
19 holder of the claim shall be entitled to the issuance
20 of a patent in the same manner and degree to which
21 such claim holder would have been entitled to prior
22 to the enactment of this Act, unless such determina-
23 tions are withdrawn or invalidated by the Secretary
24 or by a court of the United States.

25 (b) MILLSITE CLAIMS.—

1 (1) DETERMINATIONS REQUIRED.—After the
2 date of enactment of this Act, no patent shall be
3 issued by the United States for any millsite claim lo-
4 cated under the general mining laws unless the Sec-
5 retary determines that for such millsite—

6 (A) a patent application for the land sub-
7 ject to such claim was filed with the Secretary
8 on or before September 30, 1994; and

9 (B) all requirements applicable to such
10 patent application were fully complied with be-
11 fore that date.

12 (2) RIGHT TO PATENT.—If the Secretary makes
13 the determinations described in subparagraphs (A)
14 and (B) of paragraph (1) for any millsite claim, the
15 holder of the claim shall be entitled to the issuance
16 of a patent in the same manner and degree to which
17 such claim holder would have been entitled to prior
18 to the enactment of this Act, unless such determina-
19 tions are withdrawn or invalidated by the Secretary
20 or by a court of the United States.

21 **SEC. 313. PROSPECTING LICENSE AND HARDROCK LEASES.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—No person may conduct mineral
23 prospecting for commercial purposes for any hardrock
24 mineral on Federal lands without a prospecting license or
25 a small miners lease.

1 (b) PROSPECTING LICENSES.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, under
3 such rules and regulations as the Secretary may pre-
4 scribe and with the concurrence of the relevant sur-
5 face management agency, grant an applicant a
6 prospecting license that shall give the exclusive right
7 to prospect for specified hardrock minerals on Fed-
8 eral lands for a period of not exceeding 2 years.

9 (2) MAXIMUM AREA.—The area subject to such
10 a license shall not exceed 2,560 acres of land, in rea-
11 sonably compact form.

12 (3) LICENSE APPLICATION FEE.—The Sec-
13 retary shall charge a fee for each license application
14 to cover the costs of processing the license, and the
15 license shall be subject to annual rentals equal to
16 \$10 per acre per year.

17 (4) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A prospecting li-
18 cense must conform with the terms and conditions
19 of a comprehensive land use plan approved under
20 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
21 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or the Forest and
22 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of
23 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.). For areas where a
24 comprehensive land use plan treating hardrock min-
25 ing as a multiple-use activity has not been com-

1 pleted, the Secretary concerned shall ensure that the
2 land to be covered by the license is suitable for min-
3 eral activities.

4 (5) EXTENSION.—A prospecting license may be
5 extended for up to an additional 4 years upon a
6 showing by the licensee that the licensee explored
7 with reasonable diligence and was unable to deter-
8 mine the existence and workability of a valuable de-
9 posit covered by the license, or that the failure to
10 perform diligent prospecting activities was due to
11 conditions beyond the licensee's control.

12 (c) NONCOMPETITIVE LEASES.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Upon a showing to the satis-
14 faction of the Secretary by a prospecting licensee
15 under subsection (a) that a valuable deposit of a
16 hardrock mineral has been discovered by the licensee
17 within an area covered by the prospecting license
18 and with the consent of the surface agency, the li-
19 censee shall be entitled to a lease for any or all of
20 the land included in the prospecting license, as well
21 as any nonmineral lands necessary for processing or
22 milling operations, at a royalty of no less than 12.5
23 percent of the gross value of production of hardrock
24 minerals or mineral concentrates or products derived
25 from hardrock minerals under the lease. Rentals for

1 such lease shall be set by the Secretary at no less
2 than \$10 per acre per year, with rentals paid in any
3 one year credited against royalties accruing for that
4 year. The recipient of such lease is not entitled to
5 an operations permit.

6 (2) LEASE PERIOD.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—A lease under this sec-
8 tion shall be for a period of 20 years, with the
9 right to renew for successive periods of 10 years
10 if hardrock minerals are being produced in com-
11 mercial quantities under the lease.

12 (B) EXTENSION DURING NONPRODUC-
13 TION.—If hardrock minerals are not being pro-
14 duced in commercial quantities at the end of
15 the primary term or any subsequent term of
16 such a lease, the Secretary may issue a 10-year
17 extension of the lease in the interest of con-
18 servation, reclamation maintenance, or upon a
19 successful showing by the lessee that the lease
20 cannot be successfully operated at a profit or
21 for other reasons. No more than one extension
22 under this subparagraph may be issued.

23 (d) CUMULATIVE ACREAGE LIMITATION.—No person
24 may take, hold, own, or control at one time, whether ac-
25 quired directly from the Secretary under this title or oth-

1 erwise, hardrock mining leases or licenses for an aggregate
2 of more than 20,480 acres in any one State.

3 (e) REDUCTION OF ROYALTY RATE.—

4 (1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary—

5 (A) may reduce the royalty rate for a lease
6 upon a showing by clear and convincing evi-
7 dence by the person conducting mineral activi-
8 ties under the lease that production would not
9 occur without the reduction in royalty; and

10 (B) may reduce royalty and rental rates
11 for a lease to encourage exploration for and de-
12 velopment of hardrock minerals classified as
13 strategic and critical by the Department of En-
14 ergy.

15 (2) The Secretary may not reduce the royalty
16 rate for a lease pursuant to paragraph (1) to a roy-
17 alty rate of less than 6.25 percent.

18 (f) PROTECTION OF LAND AND OTHER RE-
19 SOURCES.—The Secretary may include in any lease or li-
20 cense issued under this title such provisions as are nec-
21 essary to adequately protect the lands and other resources
22 in the vicinity of the area subject to the lease or license.
23 For land not managed by the Department of the Interior,
24 the Secretary shall consult with the appropriate surface
25 management agency in formulating such provisions.

1 **SEC. 314. COMPETITIVE LEASING.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to sections 321 and 322,
3 Federal lands known to contain valuable deposits of
4 hardrock minerals that are not covered by claims, licenses,
5 or leases may only be open to hardrock mineral exploration
6 or development through competitive leasing by the Sec-
7 retary by such methods the Secretary may adopt by regu-
8 lation and in such areas as the Secretary may determine,
9 including nonmineral lands the Secretary considers nec-
10 essary for processing or milling operations. The total area
11 of land subject to any such lease shall not exceed 2,560
12 acres.

13 (b) TERMS AND REQUIREMENTS.—All terms and re-
14 quirements for competitive leases under this section shall
15 be the same as if the leases were issued noncompetitively
16 under section 313(c).

17 **SEC. 315. SMALL MINERS LEASES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue small
19 miners leases to qualified small miners that apply, under
20 such rules and regulations as the Secretary may prescribe,
21 including conditions to require diligent development of the
22 lease and to ensure protection of surface resources and
23 groundwater.

24 (b) EXCLUSIVE RIGHT.—A small miners lease shall
25 give the lease holder the exclusive right to prospect for

1 hardrock minerals for 3 years on up to 200 acres of con-
2 tiguous or non-contiguous Federal land.

3 (c) APPLICATION FEE.—The Secretary shall charge
4 a reasonable application fee for such a lease.

5 (d) RENTALS.—Rentals for such a lease shall be \$5
6 per acre per year for the first 3 years.

7 (e) RENEWAL.—Such leases may be renewed for ad-
8 ditional 3-year periods, with no limit, with a \$10 per acre
9 per year rental charged for renewed leases.

10 (f) CHALLENGE.—Any individual may file a challenge
11 with the Secretary that a lease holder is in violation of
12 the diligence terms of a small miners lease or does not
13 qualify as a small miner. A small miners lease that is
14 under such a challenge may not be renewed unless the Sec-
15 retary has determined that the lease holder is a small
16 miner and is in compliance with all the terms of the lease.

17 (g) NO ROYALTIES.—No royalties shall be charged
18 for commercial production under a small miners lease.

19 (h) CONVERSION OF EXISTING CLAIMS.—An existing
20 claim, as of the date of enactment of this Act, that belongs
21 to an individual that qualifies as a small miner may be
22 converted to a small miners lease under the same terms
23 and conditions that apply to other small miners leases, ex-
24 cept that such lease—

1 (1) shall not be subject to rental during the pri-
2 mary term of the lease;

3 (2) shall be subject to a rental of \$5 per acre
4 per year for the first 3-year renewal of the lease;
5 and

6 (3) shall be subject to a rental of \$10 per acre
7 per year for any subsequent 3-year renewal of the
8 lease.

9 (i) LIMITATIONS.—A small miners lease—

10 (1) may only be held by the primary lease hold-
11 er, a spouse thereof, or a direct descendent thereof;

12 (2) may not be sold or transferred, other than
13 to a spouse or direct descendent of the primary lease
14 holder; and

15 (3) is subject to all permitting requirements
16 under this title.

17 (j) CONVERSION TO HARDROCK MINERAL LEASE.—

18 If, with regards to a lease, the lease holder no longer quali-
19 fies as a small miner at the time such lease holder applies
20 for a renewal of such lease, such lease holder shall not
21 be eligible to renew the small miners lease, but shall be
22 eligible for a noncompetitive hardrock mineral lease issued
23 under section 313(c). Notwithstanding section 313(c)(1),
24 royalties under such a lease shall only be due on the gross
25 income that exceeds the amount of gross income specified

1 in such definition as of the time the hardrock mineral
2 lease is issued.

3 **SEC. 316. LANDS CONTAINING NONHARDROCK MINERALS;**
4 **OTHER USES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—In issuing licenses and leases
6 under this title for lands that contain deposits of coal or
7 other nonhardrock minerals, the Secretary shall reserve to
8 the United States such nonhardrock minerals for disposal
9 under applicable laws.

10 (b) OTHER USES OF LICENSED AND LEASED
11 LANDS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promul-
13 gate regulations to allow for other uses of the lands
14 covered by a prospecting license under this title, in-
15 cluding leases for other minerals, if such other uses
16 would not unreasonably interfere with operations
17 under the prospecting license.

18 (2) PROSPECTING LICENSES.—The Secretary
19 shall include in such prospecting licenses such terms
20 and conditions as the Secretary finds necessary to
21 avoid unreasonable interference with other uses oc-
22 ccurring on, or other leases of, the licensed lands.

23 (3) LEASES.—The Secretary shall include in
24 leases under this title stipulations to allow for simul-

1 taneous operations under other leases for the same
2 lands.

3 **SEC. 317. ROYALTY.**

4 (a) **EXISTING PRODUCTION.**—Production of hardrock
5 minerals on Federal land under an operations permit from
6 which valuable hardrock minerals were produced in com-
7 mercial quantities before the date of enactment of this
8 Act, other than production under a small miners lease,
9 shall be subject to a royalty established by the Secretary
10 at no less than 8 percent of the gross value of such produc-
11 tion, or of mineral concentrates or products derived from
12 hardrock minerals. Any Federal land added through a
13 plan modification to an operations permit on Federal land
14 that is submitted after the date of enactment of this Act
15 shall be subject to a royalty established by the Secretary
16 for such lease of no less than 12.5 percent of the gross
17 value of production of hardrock minerals, or mineral con-
18 centrates or products derived from hardrock minerals.

19 (b) **LIABILITY.**—The claim or lease holder, or any op-
20 erator to whom the claim or lease holder has assigned the
21 obligation to make royalty payments under the claim or
22 lease and any person who controls such claim or lease
23 holder or operator, shall be liable for payment of such roy-
24 alties.

1 (c) DISPOSITION.—Of the revenues collected under
2 this subtitle, including rents, royalties, claim maintenance
3 fees, interest charges, fines, and penalties—

4 (1) 25 percent shall be paid to the State within
5 the boundaries of which the leased, licensed, or
6 claimed lands, or operations subject to such interest
7 charges, fines, or penalties are or were located; and

8 (2) the remainder shall be deposited in the ac-
9 count established under section 451.

10 (d) DUTIES OF CLAIM OR LEASE HOLDERS, OPERA-
11 TORS, AND TRANSPORTERS.—

12 (1) REGULATION.—The Secretary shall pre-
13 scribe by rule the time and manner in which—

14 (A) a person who is required to make a
15 royalty payment under this section shall make
16 such payment; and

17 (B) shall notify the Secretary of any as-
18 signment that such person may have made of
19 the obligation to make any royalty or other pay-
20 ment under a mining claim or lease under this
21 subtitle.

22 (2) WRITTEN INSTRUMENT.—Any person pay-
23 ing royalties under this section shall file a written
24 instrument, together with the first royalty payment,
25 affirming that such person is responsible for making

1 proper payments for all amounts due for all time pe-
2 riods for which such person has a payment responsi-
3 bility.

4 (3) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—Such responsi-
5 bility for the periods referred to in paragraph (2)
6 shall include any and all additional amounts billed
7 by the Secretary and determined to be due by final
8 agency or judicial action.

9 (4) JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY.—Any per-
10 son liable for royalty payments under this section
11 who assigns any payment obligation shall remain
12 jointly and severally liable for all royalty payments
13 due for the period.

14 (5) OBLIGATIONS.—A person conducting min-
15 eral activities shall—

16 (A) develop and comply with the site secu-
17 rity provisions in the operations permit de-
18 signed to protect from theft the hardrock min-
19 erals, concentrates, or products derived there-
20 from that are produced or stored on the area
21 subject to a mining claim or lease, and such
22 provisions shall conform with such minimum
23 standards as the Secretary may prescribe by
24 rule, taking into account the variety of cir-

1 cumstances on areas subject to mining claims
2 and leases; and

3 (B) not later than the fifth business day
4 after production begins anywhere on an area
5 subject to a mining claim or lease, or produc-
6 tion resumes after more than 90 days after pro-
7 duction was suspended, notify the Secretary, in
8 the manner prescribed by the Secretary, of the
9 date on which such production has begun or re-
10 sumed.

11 (6) REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.—The Sec-
12 retary may by rule require any person engaged in
13 transporting a hardrock mineral, concentrate, or
14 product derived therefrom to carry on his or her per-
15 son, in his or her vehicle, or in his or her immediate
16 control, documentation showing, at a minimum, the
17 amount, origin, and intended destination of the
18 hardrock mineral, concentrate, or product derived
19 therefrom in such circumstances as the Secretary
20 determines is appropriate.

21 (e) RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING REQUIRE-
22 MENTS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—A claim or lease holder, op-
24 erator, or other person directly involved in devel-
25 oping, producing, processing, transporting, pur-

1 chasing, or selling hardrock minerals, concentrates,
2 or products derived therefrom, subject to this title,
3 through the point of royalty computation shall estab-
4 lish and maintain any records, make any reports,
5 and provide any information that the Secretary may
6 reasonably require for the purposes of implementing
7 this section or determining compliance with rules or
8 orders under this section. Such records shall include
9 periodic reports, records, documents, and other data.
10 Such reports may also include pertinent technical
11 and financial data relating to the quantity, quality,
12 composition volume, weight, and assay of all min-
13 erals extracted from the mining claim or lease.

14 (2) AVAILABILITY FOR INSPECTION.—Upon the
15 request of any officer or employee duly designated
16 by the Secretary conducting an audit or investiga-
17 tion pursuant to this section, the appropriate
18 records, reports, or information that may be re-
19 quired by this section shall be made available for in-
20 spection and duplication by such officer or employee.

21 (3) FORFEITURE.—Failure by a claim or lease
22 holder, operator, or other person referred to in the
23 first sentence to cooperate with such an audit, pro-
24 vide data required by the Secretary, or grant access
25 to information may, at the discretion of the Sec-

1 retary, result in involuntary forfeiture of the claim
2 or lease.

3 (4) MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.—Records re-
4 quired by the Secretary under this section shall be
5 maintained for 7 years after release of financial as-
6 surance under section 346 unless the Secretary noti-
7 fies the operator that the Secretary has initiated an
8 audit or investigation involving such records and
9 that such records must be maintained for a longer
10 period. In any case when an audit or investigation
11 is underway, records shall be maintained until the
12 Secretary releases the operator of the obligation to
13 maintain such records.

14 (f) AUDITS.—The Secretary is authorized to conduct
15 such audits of all claim or lease holders, operators, trans-
16 porters, purchasers, processors, or other persons directly
17 or indirectly involved in the production or sale of minerals
18 covered by this title, as the Secretary deems necessary for
19 the purposes of ensuring compliance with the require-
20 ments of this section. For purposes of performing such
21 audits, the Secretary shall, at reasonable times and upon
22 request, have access to, and may copy, all books, papers
23 and other documents that relate to compliance with any
24 provision of this section by any person.

25 (g) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized
2 to enter into cooperative agreements with the Sec-
3 retary of Agriculture to share information con-
4 cerning the royalty management of hardrock min-
5 erals, concentrates, or products derived therefrom, to
6 carry out inspection, auditing, investigation, or en-
7 forcement (not including the collection of royalties,
8 civil or criminal penalties, or other payments) activi-
9 ties under this section in cooperation with the Sec-
10 retary, and to carry out any other activity described
11 in this section.

12 (2) SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.—Except as
13 provided in paragraph (3), and pursuant to a coop-
14 erative agreement, the Secretary of Agriculture
15 shall, upon request, have access to all royalty ac-
16 counting information in the possession of the Sec-
17 retary respecting the production, removal, or sale of
18 hardrock minerals, concentrates, or products derived
19 therefrom from claims or leases on lands open to lo-
20 cation under this title.

21 (3) TRADE SECRETS.—Trade secrets, propri-
22 etary, and other confidential information protected
23 from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United
24 States Code, shall be made available by the Sec-
25 retary to other Federal agencies as necessary to as-

1 sure compliance with this title and other Federal
2 laws. The Secretary, the Secretary of Agriculture,
3 the Administrator of the Environmental Protection
4 Agency, and other Federal officials shall ensure that
5 such information is provided protection in accord-
6 ance with the requirements of that section.

7 (h) INTEREST AND SUBSTANTIAL UNDERREPORTING
8 ASSESSMENTS.—

9 (1) PAYMENTS NOT RECEIVED.—In the case of
10 mining claims or leases where royalty payments are
11 not received by the Secretary on the date that such
12 payments are due, the Secretary shall charge inter-
13 est on such underpayments at the same interest rate
14 as the rate applicable under section 6621(a)(2) of
15 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. In the case of
16 an underpayment, interest shall be computed and
17 charged only on the amount of the deficiency and
18 not on the total amount.

19 (2) UNDERREPORTING.—If there is any under-
20 reporting of royalty owed on production from a
21 claim or lease for any production month by any per-
22 son liable for royalty payments under this section,
23 the Secretary shall assess a penalty of not greater
24 than 25 percent of the amount of that under-
25 reporting.

1 (3) SELF-REPORTING.—The Secretary may
2 waive or reduce the assessment provided in para-
3 graph (2) of this subsection if the person liable for
4 royalty payments under this section corrects the
5 underreporting before the date such person receives
6 notice from the Secretary that an underreporting
7 may have occurred, or before 90 days after the date
8 of enactment of this section, whichever is later.

9 (4) WAIVER.—The Secretary shall waive any
10 portion of an assessment under paragraph (2) of
11 this subsection attributable to that portion of the
12 underreporting for which the person responsible for
13 paying the royalty demonstrates that—

14 (A) such person had written authorization
15 from the Secretary to report royalty on the
16 value of the production on basis on which it was
17 reported;

18 (B) such person had substantial authority
19 for reporting royalty on the value of the produc-
20 tion on the basis on which it was reported;

21 (C) such person previously had notified the
22 Secretary, in such manner as the Secretary may
23 by rule prescribe, of relevant reasons or facts
24 affecting the royalty treatment of specific pro-
25 duction which led to the underreporting; or

1 (D) such person meets any other exception
2 which the Secretary may, by rule, establish.

3 (5) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this sub-
4 section, the term “underreporting” means the dif-
5 ference between the royalty on the value of the pro-
6 duction that should have been reported and the roy-
7 alty on the value of the production which was re-
8 ported, if the value that should have been reported
9 is greater than the value that was reported.

10 (6) ABANDONED HARDROCK MINE RECLAMA-
11 TION PROGRAM.—All penalties collected under this
12 subsection shall be deposited into the Abandoned
13 Hardrock Mine Reclamation Program.

14 (i) EXPANDED ROYALTY OBLIGATIONS.—Each per-
15 son liable for royalty payments under this section shall
16 be jointly and severally liable for royalty on all hardrock
17 minerals, concentrates, or products derived therefrom lost
18 or wasted from a mining claim or lease when such loss
19 or waste is due to negligence on the part of any person
20 or due to the failure to comply with any rule, regulation,
21 or order issued under this section.

22 (j) GROSS INCOME FROM MINING DEFINED.—For
23 the purposes of this section, for any hardrock mineral, the
24 term “gross income from mining” has the same meaning

1 as the term “gross income” in section 613(c) of the Inter-
2 nal Revenue Code of 1986.

3 (k) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Royalties under this title
4 shall take effect with respect to the production of hardrock
5 minerals after the enactment of this Act, but any royalty
6 payments attributable to production during the first 12
7 calendar months after the enactment of this Act shall be
8 payable at the expiration of such 12-month period.

9 (l) **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ROYALTY REQUIRE-**
10 **MENTS.**—Any person who fails to comply with the require-
11 ments of this section or any regulation or order issued to
12 implement this section shall be liable for a civil penalty
13 under section 109 of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty
14 Management Act (30 U.S.C. 1719) to the same extent as
15 if the claim or lease maintained in compliance with this
16 title were a lease under such Act.

17 **SEC. 318. EXISTING PRODUCTION.**

18 The holder of a mining claim located or converted
19 under this title for which mineral activities have already
20 commenced under an approved plan of operations as of
21 the date of enactment of this Act shall have the exclusive
22 right of possession and use of the claimed land for mineral
23 activities, including the right of ingress and egress to such
24 claimed lands for such activities, subject to the rights of
25 the United States under this title and other applicable

1 Federal law. Such rights of the claim holder shall termi-
2 nate upon completion of mineral activities on such lands
3 to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

4 **SEC. 319. HARDROCK MINING CLAIM MAINTENANCE FEE.**

5 (a) FEE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—

7 (A) REQUIRED FEES.—Except as provided
8 in section 2511(e)(2) of the Energy Policy Act
9 of 1992 (30 U.S.C. 242), or as otherwise pro-
10 vided in this title, for each unpatented mining
11 claim, mill, or tunnel site on federally owned
12 lands, whether located before or on the date of
13 enactment of this Act, each claimant shall pay
14 to the Secretary, on or before August 31 of
15 each year, a claim maintenance fee of \$200 per
16 claim to hold such unpatented mining claim,
17 mill or tunnel site for the assessment year be-
18 ginning at noon on the next day, September 1.
19 Such claim maintenance fee shall be in lieu of
20 the assessment work requirement contained in
21 the Mining Law of 1872 (30 U.S.C. 28 et seq.)
22 and the related filing requirements contained in
23 section 314 (a) and (c) of the Federal Land
24 Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.
25 1744 (a) and (c)).

1 (B) FEE ADJUSTMENTS.—Any adjustment
2 to the fees under this subsection under section
3 462 shall begin to apply the calendar year fol-
4 lowing the calendar year in which such adjust-
5 ment is made.

6 (C) EXCEPTION FOR SMALL MINERS.—
7 Subparagraph (A) and the assessment work re-
8 quirement contained in the Mining Law of 1872
9 (30 U.S.C. 28 et seq.) shall not apply with re-
10 spect to any claim held by a small miner.

11 (2) Moneys received under this subsection that
12 are not otherwise allocated for the administration of
13 the mining laws by the Department of the Interior
14 shall be deposited in the Abandoned Hardrock Mine
15 Reclamation Program.

16 (b) CO-OWNERSHIP.—The co-ownership provisions of
17 the Mining Law of 1872 (30 U.S.C. 28 et seq.) shall re-
18 main in effect except that the annual claim maintenance
19 fee, where applicable, shall replace applicable assessment
20 requirements and expenditures.

21 (c) FAILURE TO PAY.—Failure to pay the claim
22 maintenance fee as required by subsection (a) shall conclu-
23 sively constitute a forfeiture of the unpatented mining
24 claim, mill or tunnel site by the claimant and the claim
25 shall be deemed null and void by operation of law.

1 (d) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—

2 (1) REQUIRED FILINGS.—Nothing in this sec-
3 tion shall change or modify the requirements of sec-
4 tion 314(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
5 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1744(b)), or the re-
6 quirements of section 314(c) of the Federal Land
7 Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.
8 1744(c)) related to filings required by section
9 314(b), which remain in effect.

10 (2) MINING LAW OF 1872.—Section 2324 of the
11 Revised Statutes of the United States (30 U.S.C.
12 28) is amended by inserting “or section 313(a) of
13 the Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act of 2023”
14 after “Act of 1993”.

15 **SEC. 320. EFFECT OF PAYMENTS FOR USE AND OCCUPANCY**
16 **OF CLAIMS.**

17 Except as otherwise provided in section 301, timely
18 payment of the claim maintenance fee required by section
19 309 or any related law relating to the use of Federal land,
20 asserts the claimant’s authority to use and occupy the
21 Federal land concerned for prospecting and exploration,
22 consistent with the requirements of this title and other
23 applicable law.

1 **SEC. 321. PROTECTION OF SPECIAL PLACES.**

2 (a) PROTECTION OF NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM UNITS
3 AND NATIONAL MONUMENTS.—No permit shall be issued
4 under this title that authorizes mineral activities that
5 would impair the land or resources of a unit of the Na-
6 tional Park System or a national monument. For purposes
7 of this subsection, the term “impair” includes any diminu-
8 tion of the affected land including wildlife, scenic assets,
9 water resources, air quality, and acoustic qualities, or
10 other changes that would impair a citizen’s experience at
11 the National Park System unit or a national monument.

12 (b) PROTECTION OF CONSERVATION AREAS.—In
13 order to protect the resources and values of National Con-
14 servation System units, the Secretary, as appropriate,
15 shall utilize authority under this title and other applicable
16 law to the fullest extent necessary to prevent mineral ac-
17 tivities that could have an adverse impact on the resources
18 or values for which such units were established.

19 (c) LANDS NOT OPEN TO MINING.—Notwithstanding
20 any other provision of law and subject to valid existing
21 rights, no hardrock mining activity shall be allowed in any
22 of the following:

- 23 (1) Sacred sites.
- 24 (2) Wilderness study areas.
- 25 (3) Designated critical habitat.
- 26 (4) Areas of critical environmental concern.

1 (5) Units of the National Conservation System.

2 (6) Areas designated for inclusion in the Na-
3 tional Wild and Scenic Rivers System pursuant to
4 the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et
5 seq.), areas designated for potential addition to such
6 system pursuant to section 5(a) of that Act (16
7 U.S.C. 1276(a)), and areas determined to be eligible
8 for inclusion in such system pursuant to section 5(d)
9 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(d)).

10 (7) Inventoried Roadless Areas under the
11 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, part 294 of title
12 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Colorado Roadless
13 Areas, or Idaho Roadless Areas.

14 **SEC. 322. SUITABILITY DETERMINATION.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall
16 make each determination of whether lands are suitable for
17 mineral activities that is otherwise required by this title,
18 in accordance with subsection (b).

19 (b) SUITABILITY.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned
21 shall consider lands suitable for mineral activities if
22 the Secretary concerned finds that such activities
23 would not result in undue degradation to a special
24 characteristic described in paragraph (2) that cannot

1 be prevented by the imposition of conditions in the
2 permit required for such activities under title III.

3 (2) SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS.—For purposes
4 of paragraph (1) the Secretary concerned shall con-
5 sider each of the following to be a special char-
6 acteristic:

7 (A) The existence of a significant water re-
8 source or supply in or associated with such
9 lands, including any aquifer or aquifer recharge
10 area.

11 (B) The presence on such lands, or any
12 adjacent land, of a publicly owned place that is
13 listed on, or determined by the Secretary of the
14 Interior to be eligible for listing on, the Na-
15 tional Register of Historic Places.

16 (C) The designation of all or any portion
17 of such lands, or any adjacent land, as a Na-
18 tional Conservation System unit.

19 (D) The designation of all or any portion
20 of such lands, or any adjacent land, as critical
21 habitat under the Endangered Species Act of
22 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

23 (E) The designation of all or any portion
24 of such lands, or any adjacent land, as a class

1 I area under section 162 of the Clean Air Act
2 (42 U.S.C. 7472).

3 (F) The presence of such other resource
4 values as the Secretary concerned may by rule
5 specify, determined based upon field testing,
6 evaluation, or credible information that verifies
7 such values.

8 (G) The designation of such lands, or adja-
9 cent land, as a Research Natural Area.

10 (H) The presence on such lands, or any
11 adjacent land, of a sacred site.

12 (I) The presence or designation of such
13 lands adjacent to lands not open to mining pur-
14 suant to section 321.

15 (3) A determination under this subsection of
16 suitability for mineral activities shall be made after
17 publication of notice and an opportunity for submis-
18 sion of public comment for a period of not less than
19 60 days.

20 (4) Any determination made in accordance with
21 this subsection with respect to lands shall be incor-
22 porated into each Federal land use plan applicable
23 to such lands, at the time such plan is adopted, re-
24 vised, or significantly amended pursuant to any Fed-
25 eral law other than this title.

1 (c) CHANGE REQUEST.—The Secretary concerned
2 shall, by rule, provide for an opportunity for any person
3 to request a change in determination for any Federal land
4 found suitable under subsection (a).

5 (d) EXISTING OPERATIONS.—Nothing in this section
6 shall be construed as affecting lands on which mineral ac-
7 tivities were being conducted on the date of enactment of
8 this Act under an approved plan of operations or under
9 notice.

10 **Subtitle B—Consultation** 11 **Procedure**

12 **SEC. 331. REQUIREMENT FOR CONSULTATION.**

13 Agencies shall conduct meaningful timely consulta-
14 tion with Indian Tribes following the procedures of the
15 President’s Memorandum of Uniform Standards for Trib-
16 al Consultation, issued on November 30, 2022.

17 **Subtitle C—Environmental Consid-** 18 **erations of Mineral Exploration** 19 **and Development**

20 **SEC. 341. GENERAL STANDARD FOR HARDROCK MINING ON** 21 **FEDERAL LAND.**

22 Notwithstanding section 302(b) of the Federal Land
23 Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732(b)),
24 the first section of the Act of June 4, 1897 (chapter 2;
25 30 Stat. 36; 16 U.S.C. 478), and the National Forest

1 Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.), and
2 in accordance with this subtitle and applicable law, unless
3 expressly stated otherwise in this title, the Secretary shall
4 ensure that mineral activities on any Federal land that
5 is subject to a mining claim, millsite claim, tunnel site
6 claim, or any authorization issued under subtitle A of this
7 title are carefully controlled to prevent undue degradation
8 of public lands and resources.

9 **SEC. 342. PERMITS.**

10 (a) PERMITS REQUIRED.—No person may engage in
11 mineral activities on Federal land that may cause a dis-
12 turbance of surface resources, including land, air, ground
13 water and surface water, and fish and wildlife, unless a
14 permit was issued to such person under this subtitle au-
15 thorizing such activities.

16 (b) NEGLIGIBLE DISTURBANCE.—Notwithstanding
17 subsection (a), a permit under this subtitle shall not be
18 required for mineral activities that are a casual use of the
19 Federal land.

20 (c) COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL ENVIRON-
21 MENTAL POLICY ACT PROCESS.—The Secretary and the
22 Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct the permit proc-
23 esses under this title in accordance with the timing and
24 other requirements under section 102 of the National En-
25 vironmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332). To the

1 extent practicable, the Secretary and Secretary of Agri-
2 culture shall coordinate the permit process.

3 **SEC. 343. EXPLORATION PERMIT.**

4 (a) **AUTHORIZED EXPLORATION ACTIVITY.**—Any ap-
5 plicant may apply for an exploration permit for any min-
6 ing claim, license, or lease authorizing the applicant to re-
7 move a reasonable amount of the hardrock minerals, as
8 defined in the license or lease or established in such regu-
9 lations as the Secretary shall promulgate, from the area
10 that is subject to the claim, license, or lease, respectively,
11 for analysis, study, and testing. Such permit shall not au-
12 thorize the applicant to remove any mineral for sale nor
13 to conduct any activities other than those required for ex-
14 ploration for hardrock minerals and reclamation.

15 (b) **PERMIT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—An ap-
16 plication for an exploration permit under this section shall
17 be submitted in a manner satisfactory to the Secretary
18 concerned, and shall contain an exploration plan, a rec-
19 lamation plan for the proposed exploration, and such docu-
20 mentation as necessary to ensure compliance with applica-
21 ble Federal and State environmental laws and regulations.

22 (c) **RECLAMATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**—The rec-
23 lamation plan required to be included in a permit applica-
24 tion under subsection (b) shall include such provisions as
25 may be jointly prescribed by the Secretary and the Sec-

1 retary of Agriculture by regulations. Such regulations
2 shall, at a minimum, require the following:

3 (1) The applicant has demonstrated that pro-
4 posed reclamation can be accomplished.

5 (2) The proposed exploration activities and con-
6 dition of the land after the completion of exploration
7 activities and final reclamation will conform with the
8 land use plan applicable to the area subject to min-
9 eral activities.

10 (3) The area subject to the proposed permit is
11 not included within an area listed in section 321.

12 (4) The applicant has demonstrated that the
13 exploration plan and reclamation plan will be in
14 compliance with the requirements of this title and all
15 other applicable Federal requirements, and any
16 State requirements agreed to by the Secretary con-
17 cerned.

18 (5) The applicant has demonstrated that the re-
19 quirements of section 346 will be met.

20 (6) The applicant is eligible to receive a permit
21 under section 345.

22 (d) TERM OF PERMIT.—An exploration permit shall
23 be for a stated term. The term shall be no greater than
24 that necessary to accomplish the proposed exploration,
25 and in no case for more than 10 years.

1 (e) PERMIT MODIFICATION.—During the term of an
2 exploration permit the permit holder may submit an appli-
3 cation to modify the permit. To approve a proposed modi-
4 fication to the permit, the Secretary concerned shall make
5 the same determinations as are required in the case of
6 an original permit, except that the Secretary and the Sec-
7 retary of Agriculture may specify by joint rule the extent
8 to which requirements for initial exploration permits under
9 this section shall apply to applications to modify an explo-
10 ration permit based on whether such modifications are
11 deemed significant or minor.

12 (f) TRANSFER, ASSIGNMENT, OR SALE OF RIGHTS.—

13 (1) PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL.—No transfer,
14 assignment, or sale of rights granted by a permit
15 issued under this section shall be made without the
16 prior written approval of the Secretary concerned.

17 (2) APPROVAL.—Such Secretary shall allow a
18 person holding a permit to transfer, assign, or sell
19 rights under the permit to a successor, if the Sec-
20 retary finds in writing that the successor—

21 (A) is eligible to receive a permit under
22 section 344;

23 (B) has submitted evidence of financial as-
24 surance satisfactory under section 346; and

1 (C) meets any other requirements specified
2 by the Secretary.

3 (3) ASSUMED LIABILITY.—The successor in in-
4 terest shall assume the liability and reclamation re-
5 sponsibilities established by the existing permit and
6 shall conduct the mineral activities in full compli-
7 ance with this title, and the terms and conditions of
8 the permit as in effect at the time of transfer, as-
9 signment, or sale.

10 (4) FEE.—Each application for approval of a
11 permit transfer, assignment, or sale pursuant to this
12 subsection shall be accompanied by a fee payable to
13 the Secretary of the Interior in such amount as may
14 be established by such Secretary. Such amount shall
15 be equal to the actual or anticipated cost to the Sec-
16 retary or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appro-
17 priate, of reviewing and approving or disapproving
18 such transfer, assignment, or sale, as determined by
19 the Secretary of the Interior.

20 **SEC. 344. OPERATIONS PERMIT.**

21 (a) OPERATIONS PERMIT.—(1) Any applicant that is
22 in compliance with all provisions of this title may apply
23 to the Secretary concerned for an operations permit au-
24 thorizing the applicant to carry out mineral activities,
25 other than casual use, on—

1 (A) any valid mining claim, valid millsite claim,
2 valid tunnel site claim, or lease issued under this
3 title; and

4 (B) such additional Federal land as the Sec-
5 retary may determine is necessary to conduct the
6 proposed mineral activities, if the operator obtains a
7 right-of-way permit for use of such additional lands
8 under title V of the Federal Land Policy and Man-
9 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761 et seq.) and
10 agrees to pay all fees required under that title for
11 the permit under that title.

12 (2) If the Secretary decides to issue such permit, the
13 permit shall include such terms and conditions as pre-
14 scribed by such Secretary to carry out this subtitle.

15 (b) PERMIT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An ap-
16 plication for an operations permit under this section shall
17 be submitted in a manner satisfactory to the Secretary
18 concerned and shall contain site characterization data, an
19 operations plan, a reclamation plan, monitoring plans,
20 long-term maintenance plans, to the extent necessary, and
21 such documentation as necessary to ensure compliance
22 with applicable Federal and State environmental laws and
23 regulations. If the proposed mineral activities will be car-
24 ried out in conjunction with mineral activities on adjacent

1 non-Federal lands, information on the location and nature
2 of such operations may be required by the Secretary.

3 (c) PERMIT ISSUANCE OR DENIAL.—(1) After pro-
4 viding for public participation pursuant to subsection (i),
5 the Secretary concerned shall issue an operations permit
6 if such Secretary makes each of the following determina-
7 tions in writing, and shall deny a permit if such Secretary
8 finds that the application and applicant do not fully meet
9 the following requirements:

10 (A) The permit application, including the site
11 characterization data, operations plan, and reclama-
12 tion plan, are complete and accurate and sufficient
13 for developing a good understanding of the antici-
14 pated impacts of the mineral activities and the effec-
15 tiveness of proposed mitigation and control.

16 (B) The applicant has demonstrated that the
17 proposed reclamation in the operation and reclama-
18 tion plan can be and is likely to be accomplished by
19 the applicant and will not cause undue degradation.

20 (C) The condition of the land, including the fish
21 and wildlife resources and habitat contained thereon,
22 will be restored after the completion of mineral ac-
23 tivities.

1 (D) The area subject to the proposed plan is
2 not listed in section 321 or otherwise ineligible for
3 mineral activities.

4 (E) The proposed operation has been designed
5 to prevent material damage to the hydrologic bal-
6 ance outside the permit area.

7 (F) The applicant will fully comply with the re-
8 quirements of section 346 prior to the initiation of
9 operations.

10 (G) Neither the applicant nor operator, nor any
11 subsidiary, affiliate, or person controlled by or under
12 common control with the applicant or operator, is in-
13 eligible to receive a permit under section 345.

14 (H) The reclamation plan demonstrates that 10
15 years following mine closure, no treatment of surface
16 or ground water for carcinogens or toxins will be re-
17 quired to meet water quality standards at the point
18 of discharge.

19 (2) With respect to any activities specified in the rec-
20 lamation plan referred to in subsection (b) that constitute
21 a removal or remedial action under section 101 of the
22 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation,
23 and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601), the Secretary
24 shall consult with the Administrator of the Environmental
25 Protection Agency prior to the issuance of an operations

1 permit. The Administrator of the Environmental Protec-
2 tion Agency shall ensure that the reclamation plan does
3 not require activities that would increase the costs or like-
4 lihood of removal or remedial actions under the Com-
5 prehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and
6 Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) or correc-
7 tive actions under the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42
8 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.).

9 (d) TERM OF PERMIT; RENEWAL.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—An operations permit—

11 (A) shall be for an initial term not longer
12 than the shorter of—

13 (i) the period necessary to accomplish
14 the proposed mineral activities subject to
15 the permit; and

16 (ii) the length of time remaining on
17 the applicant's hardrock mining lease;

18 (B) shall be renewed for an additional 10-
19 year period if the operation is in compliance
20 with the requirements of this title and other ap-
21 plicable law; and

22 (C) shall expire 5 years following the com-
23 mencement of a temporary cessation unless,
24 prior to the expiration of the 5 years, the mine

1 operator has filed with the Secretary a request
2 for approval to resume operations.

3 (2) FAILURE TO COMMENCE MINERAL ACTIVI-
4 TIES.—Failure by the operator to commence mineral
5 activities within 2 years of the date scheduled in an
6 operations permit shall require a modification of the
7 permit if the Secretary concerned determines that
8 modifications are necessary to comply with section
9 321.

10 (e) PERMIT MODIFICATION.—

11 (1) APPLICATION.—During the term of an op-
12 erations permit the operator may submit an applica-
13 tion to modify the permit (including the operations
14 plan or reclamation plan).

15 (2) MODIFICATION BY THE SECRETARY CON-
16 CERNED.—The Secretary concerned may, at any
17 time, require reasonable modification to any oper-
18 ations plan or reclamation plan upon a determina-
19 tion that the requirements of this title cannot be met
20 if the plan is followed as approved. Such determina-
21 tion shall be based on a written finding and subject
22 to public notice and hearing requirements estab-
23 lished by the Secretary concerned.

24 (3) UNANTICIPATED EVENTS OR CONDI-
25 TIONS.—A permit modification is required before

1 changes are made to the approved plan of oper-
2 ations, or if unanticipated events or conditions exist
3 on the mine site, including in the case of—

4 (A) development of acid or toxic drainage;

5 (B) loss of springs or water supplies;

6 (C) water quantity, water quality, or other
7 resulting water impacts that are significantly
8 different than those predicted in the applica-
9 tion;

10 (D) the need for long-term water treat-
11 ment;

12 (E) significant reclamation difficulties or
13 reclamation failure;

14 (F) the discovery of significant scientific or
15 biological resources that were not addressed in
16 the original plan;

17 (G) the discovery of a properties eligible
18 for listing on the National Register of Historic
19 Places; or

20 (H) the discovery of hazards to public safe-
21 ty.

22 (f) TEMPORARY CESSATION OF OPERATIONS.—

23 (1) SECRETARIAL APPROVAL REQUIRED.—An
24 operator conducting mineral activities under an op-
25 erations permit in effect under this subtitle may not

1 temporarily cease mineral activities for a period
2 greater than 180 days unless the Secretary con-
3 cerned has approved such temporary cessation or
4 unless the temporary cessation is permitted under
5 the original permit.

6 (2) PREVIOUSLY ISSUED OPERATIONS PER-
7 MITS.—Any operator temporarily ceasing mineral ac-
8 tivities for a period greater than 90 days under an
9 operations permit issued before the date of enact-
10 ment of this Act shall submit, before the expiration
11 of such 90-day period, a complete application for
12 temporary cessation of operations to the Secretary
13 concerned for approval unless the temporary ces-
14 sation is permitted under the original permit.

15 (3) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—An application
16 for approval of temporary cessation of operations
17 shall include such information required under sub-
18 section (b) and any other provisions prescribed by
19 the Secretary concerned to minimize impacts on
20 human health, the environment, or properties eligible
21 for listing on the National Register of Historic
22 Places. After receipt of a complete application for
23 temporary cessation of operations such Secretary
24 shall conduct an inspection of the area for which

1 temporary cessation of operations has been re-
2 requested.

3 (4) CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL.—To approve
4 an application for temporary cessation of operations,
5 the Secretary concerned shall make each of the fol-
6 lowing determinations:

7 (A) A determination that the methods for
8 securing surface facilities and restricting access
9 to the permit area, or relevant portions thereof,
10 will effectively protect against hazards to the
11 health and safety of the public and fish and
12 wildlife or damage to properties eligible for list-
13 ing on the National Register of Historic Places.

14 (B) A determination that reclamation is in
15 compliance with the approved reclamation plan,
16 except in those areas specifically designated in
17 the application for temporary cessation of oper-
18 ations for which a delay in meeting such stand-
19 ards is necessary to facilitate the resumption of
20 operations.

21 (C) A determination that the amount of fi-
22 nancial assurance filed with the permit applica-
23 tion is sufficient to assure completion of the
24 reclamation activities identified in the approved
25 reclamation plan in the event of forfeiture.

1 (D) A determination that any outstanding
2 notices of violation and cessation orders in-
3 curred in connection with the plan for which
4 temporary cessation is being requested are ei-
5 ther stayed pursuant to an administrative or ju-
6 dicial appeal proceeding or are in the process of
7 being abated to the satisfaction of the Secretary
8 concerned.

9 (g) PERMIT REVIEWS.—The Secretary concerned
10 shall review each permit issued under this section every
11 10 years during the term of such permit, and before ap-
12 proving the resumption of operations under subsection (f),
13 such Secretary shall require the operator to take such ac-
14 tions as the Secretary deems necessary to assure that min-
15 eral activities conform to the permit, including adjustment
16 of financial assurance requirements.

17 (h) TRANSFER, ASSIGNMENT, OR SALE OF
18 RIGHTS.—

19 (1) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—No transfer, assign-
20 ment, or sale of rights granted by a permit under
21 this section shall be made without the prior written
22 approval of the Secretary concerned.

23 (2) CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL.—The Secretary
24 concerned may allow a person holding a permit to
25 transfer, assign, or sell rights under the permit to

1 a successor, if such Secretary finds, in writing, that
2 the successor—

3 (A) has submitted all required information
4 and is eligible to receive a permit in accordance
5 with section 345;

6 (B) has submitted evidence of financial as-
7 surance satisfactory under section 346; and

8 (C) meets any other requirements specified
9 by such Secretary.

10 (3) ASSUMED LIABILITY.—The successor in in-
11 terest shall assume the liability and reclamation re-
12 sponsibilities established by the existing permit and
13 shall conduct the mineral activities in full compli-
14 ance with this title, and the terms and conditions of
15 the permit as in effect at the time of transfer, as-
16 signment, or sale.

17 (4) FEE.—Each application for approval of a
18 permit transfer, assignment, or sale pursuant to this
19 subsection shall be accompanied by a fee payable to
20 the Secretary concerned in such amount as may be
21 established by such Secretary. Such amount shall be
22 equal to the actual or anticipated cost of reviewing
23 and approving or disapproving such transfer, assign-
24 ment, or sale, as determined by such Secretary.

1 (i) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary of the
2 Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall jointly pro-
3 mulgate regulations to ensure transparency and public
4 participation in permit decisions required under this title,
5 consistent with any requirements that apply to such deci-
6 sions under section 102 of the National Environmental
7 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

8 **SEC. 345. PERSONS INELIGIBLE FOR PERMITS.**

9 (a) CURRENT VIOLATIONS.—Unless corrective action
10 has been taken in accordance with subsection (c), no per-
11 mit under this subtitle shall be issued or transferred to
12 an applicant if the applicant or any agent of the applicant,
13 the operator (if different than the applicant), any claim,
14 license, or lease holder (if different than the applicant) of
15 the claim, license, or lease concerned, or any affiliate or
16 officer or director of the applicant is currently in violation
17 of any of the following:

18 (1) A provision of this title or any regulation
19 under this title.

20 (2) An applicable State or Federal toxic sub-
21 stance, solid waste, air, water quality, or fish and
22 wildlife conservation law or regulation at any site
23 where mining, beneficiation, or processing activities
24 are occurring or have occurred.

1 (3) The Surface Mining Control and Reclama-
2 tion Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) or any
3 regulation implementing that Act at any site where
4 surface coal mining operations have occurred or are
5 occurring.

6 (b) SUSPENSION.—The Secretary concerned shall
7 suspend an operations permit, in whole or in part, if such
8 Secretary determines that any of the entities described in
9 subsection (a) were in violation of any requirement listed
10 in subsection (a) at the time the permit was issued.

11 (c) CORRECTION.—

12 (1) REINSTATEMENT.—The Secretary con-
13 cerned may issue or reinstate a permit under this
14 subtitle if the applicant submits proof that the viola-
15 tion referred to in subsection (a) or (b) has been
16 corrected or is in the process of being corrected to
17 the satisfaction of such Secretary and the regulatory
18 authority involved or if the applicant submits proof
19 that the violator has filed and is presently pursuing,
20 a direct administrative or judicial appeal to contest
21 the existence of the violation. For purposes of this
22 section, an appeal of any applicant's relationship to
23 an affiliate shall not constitute a direct administra-
24 tive or judicial appeal to contest the existence of the
25 violation.

1 (2) **CONDITIONAL APPROVAL.**—Any permit
2 which is issued or reinstated based upon proof sub-
3 mitted under this subsection shall be conditionally
4 approved or conditionally reinstated, as the case may
5 be. If the violation is not successfully abated or the
6 violation is upheld on appeal, the permit shall be
7 suspended or revoked.

8 (d) **PATTERN OF WILLFUL VIOLATIONS.**—No permit
9 may be issued under this title to any applicant if there
10 is a demonstrated pattern of willful violations of the envi-
11 ronmental protection requirements of this title by the ap-
12 plicant, any affiliate of the applicant, or the operator or
13 claim, license, or lease holder if different than the appli-
14 cant.

15 **SEC. 346. FINANCIAL ASSURANCE.**

16 (a) **FINANCIAL ASSURANCE REQUIRED.**—

17 (1) **FORM OF ASSURANCE.**—After a permit is
18 issued under this subtitle and before any exploration
19 or operations begin under the permit, the operator
20 shall file with the Secretary concerned evidence of fi-
21 nancial assurance payable to the United States. The
22 financial assurance shall be provided in the form of
23 a surety bond, letters of credit, certificates of de-
24 posit, or cash.

1 (2) COVERED ACTIVITIES.—The financial assur-
2 ance shall cover all lands within the initial permit
3 area and all affected waters that may require res-
4 toration, treatment, or other management as a re-
5 sult of mineral activities, and shall be extended to
6 cover all lands and waters added pursuant to any
7 permit modification made under section 303(e) or
8 section 304(e), or affected by mineral activities.

9 (b) AMOUNT.—The amount of the financial assur-
10 ance required under this section shall be sufficient to as-
11 sure the completion of reclamation and restoration satis-
12 fying the requirements of this title if the work were to
13 be performed by the Secretary concerned in the event of
14 forfeiture, including the construction and maintenance
15 costs for any treatment facilities necessary to meet Fed-
16 eral and State environmental requirements. The calcula-
17 tion of such amount shall take into account the maximum
18 level of financial exposure which shall arise during the
19 mineral activity and administrative costs associated with
20 a government agency reclaiming the site.

21 (c) DURATION.—The financial assurance required
22 under this section shall be held for the duration of the
23 mineral activities and for an additional period to cover the
24 operator's responsibility for reclamation, restoration, and

1 long-term maintenance, and effluent treatment as speci-
2 fied in subsection (g).

3 (d) ADJUSTMENTS.—The amount of the financial as-
4 surance and the terms of the acceptance of the assurance
5 may be adjusted by the Secretary concerned from time to
6 time as the area requiring coverage is increased or de-
7 creased, or where the costs of reclamation or treatment
8 change, or pursuant to section 304(f), but the financial
9 assurance shall otherwise be in compliance with this sec-
10 tion. The Secretary concerned shall review the financial
11 guarantee every 3 years and as part of the permit applica-
12 tion review under section 304(g).

13 (e) RELEASE.—Upon request, and after notice and
14 opportunity for public comment, and after inspection by
15 the Secretary concerned, such Secretary may, after con-
16 sultation with the Administrator of the Environmental
17 Protection Agency, release in whole or in part the financial
18 assurance required under this section if the Secretary
19 makes both of the following determinations:

20 (1) A determination that reclamation or res-
21 toration covered by the financial assurance has been
22 accomplished as required by this title.

23 (2) A determination that the terms and condi-
24 tions of any other applicable Federal requirements,
25 and State requirements applicable pursuant to coop-

1 erative agreements under section 348, have been ful-
2 filled.

3 (f) RELEASE SCHEDULE.—The release referred to in
4 subsection (e) shall be according to the following schedule:

5 (1) After the operator has completed any re-
6 quired backfilling, regrading, and drainage control of
7 an area subject to mineral activities and covered by
8 the financial assurance, and has commenced revege-
9 tation on the regraded areas subject to mineral ac-
10 tivities in accordance with the approved plan, that
11 portion of the total financial assurance secured for
12 the area subject to mineral activities attributable to
13 the completed activities may be released except that
14 sufficient assurance must be retained to address
15 other required reclamation and restoration needs
16 and to assure the long-term success of the revegeta-
17 tion.

18 (2) After the operator has completed success-
19 fully all remaining mineral activities and reclamation
20 activities and all requirements of the operations plan
21 and the reclamation plan, and all other requirements
22 of this title have been fully met, the remaining por-
23 tion of the financial assurance may be released.

24 During the period following release of the financial assur-
25 ance as specified in paragraph (1), until the remaining

1 portion of the financial assurance is released as provided
2 in paragraph (2), the operator shall be required to comply
3 with the permit issued under this subtitle.

4 (g) EFFLUENT.—Notwithstanding section 347(b)(4),
5 where any discharge or other water-related condition re-
6 sulting from the mineral activities requires treatment in
7 order to meet the applicable effluent limitations and water
8 quality standards, the financial assurance shall include the
9 estimated cost of maintaining such treatment for the pro-
10 jected period that will be needed after the cessation of
11 mineral activities. The portion of the financial assurance
12 attributable to such estimated cost of treatment shall not
13 be released until the discharge has ceased for a period of
14 5 years, as determined by ongoing monitoring and testing,
15 or, if the discharge continues, until the operator has met
16 all applicable effluent limitations and water quality stand-
17 ards for 5 full years without treatment.

18 (h) ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS.—If the Secretary
19 concerned determines, after final release of financial as-
20 surance, that an environmental hazard resulting from the
21 mineral activities exists, or the terms and conditions of
22 the explorations or operations permit of this title were not
23 fulfilled in fact at the time of release, such Secretary shall
24 issue an order under section 467 requiring the claim hold-
25 er or operator (or any person who controls the claim hold-

1 er or operator) to correct the condition such that applica-
2 ble laws and regulations and any conditions from the plan
3 of operations are met.

4 **SEC. 347. OPERATION AND RECLAMATION.**

5 (a) GENERAL RULE.—(1) The operator shall restore
6 lands subject to mineral activities carried out under a per-
7 mit issued under this subtitle to a condition capable of
8 supporting—

9 (A) the uses which such lands were capable of
10 supporting prior to surface disturbance by the oper-
11 ator; or

12 (B) other beneficial uses which conform to ap-
13 plicable land use plans as determined by the Sec-
14 retary concerned.

15 (2) Reclamation shall proceed as contemporaneously
16 as practicable with the conduct of mineral activities. In
17 the case of a cessation of mineral activities beyond that
18 provided for as a temporary cessation under this title, rec-
19 lamation activities shall begin immediately.

20 (b) OPERATION AND RECLAMATION STANDARDS.—

21 The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agri-
22 culture shall jointly promulgate regulations that establish
23 operation and reclamation standards for mineral activities
24 permitted under this title. The Secretaries may determine
25 whether outcome-based performance standards or tech-

1 nology-based design standards are most appropriate. The
2 regulations shall address the following:

3 (1) Segregation, protection, and replacement of
4 topsoil or other suitable growth medium, and the
5 prevention, where possible, of soil contamination.

6 (2) Maintenance of the stability of all surface
7 areas.

8 (3) Control of sediments to prevent erosion and
9 manage drainage.

10 (4) Minimization of the formation and migra-
11 tion of acidic, alkaline, metal-bearing, or other dele-
12 terious leachate.

13 (5) Reduction of the visual impact of mineral
14 activities to the surrounding topography, including
15 as necessary pit backfill.

16 (6) Establishment of a diverse, effective, and
17 permanent vegetative cover of the same seasonal va-
18 riety native to the area affected by mineral activities,
19 and equal in extent of cover to the natural vegeta-
20 tion of the area.

21 (7) Design and maintenance of leach oper-
22 ations, impoundments, and excess waste according to
23 standard engineering standards to achieve and main-
24 tain stability and reclamation of the site.

1 (8) Removal of structures and roads and seal-
2 ing of drill holes.

3 (9) Restoration of, or mitigation for, fish and
4 wildlife habitat disturbed by mineral activities.

5 (10) Preservation of cultural, paleontological,
6 and cave resources.

7 (11) Prevention and suppression of fire within
8 the leased area.

9 (c) SURFACE OR GROUND WATER WITHDRAWALS.—
10 The Secretary concerned shall work with State and local
11 governments with authority over the allocation and use of
12 surface and ground water in the area around the mine
13 site as necessary to ensure that any surface or ground
14 water withdrawals made as a result of mining activities
15 approved under this section do not cause undue degrada-
16 tion.

17 (d) SPECIAL RULE.—Reclamation activities for a
18 mining claim, license, or lease that has been forfeited, re-
19 linquished, or lapsed, or a plan that has expired or been
20 revoked or suspended, shall continue subject to review and
21 approval by the Secretary concerned.

22 **SEC. 348. STATE LAW AND REGULATION.**

23 (a) STATE LAW.—

24 (1) RECLAMATION, LAND USE, ENVIRON-
25 MENTAL, AND PUBLIC HEALTH STANDARDS.—Any

1 reclamation, land use, environmental, or public
2 health protection standard or requirement in State
3 law or regulation that meets or exceeds the require-
4 ments of this title shall not be construed to be incon-
5 sistent with any such standard.

6 (2) BONDING REQUIREMENTS.—Any bonding
7 standard or requirement in State law or regulation
8 that meets or exceeds the requirements of this title
9 shall not be construed to be inconsistent with such
10 requirements.

11 (3) INSPECTION STANDARDS.—Any inspection
12 standard or requirement in State law or regulation
13 that meets or exceeds the requirements of this title
14 shall not be construed to be inconsistent with such
15 requirements.

16 (b) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER STATE REQUIRE-
17 MENTS.—

18 (1) ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS.—Nothing in
19 this title shall be construed as affecting any toxic
20 substance, solid waste, or air or water quality,
21 standard or requirement of any State, county, local,
22 or Tribal law or regulation, which may be applicable
23 to mineral activities on lands subject to this title.

24 (2) WATER RESOURCES.—Nothing in this title
25 shall be construed as affecting in any way the right

1 of any person to enforce or protect, under applicable
2 law, such person's interest in water resources af-
3 fected by mineral activities on lands subject to this
4 title.

5 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any State may enter into a
7 cooperative agreement with the Secretary concerned
8 for the purposes of such Secretary applying such
9 standards and requirements referred to in subsection
10 (a) and subsection (b) to mineral activities or rec-
11 lamation on lands subject to this title.

12 (2) COMMON REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.—In
13 such instances where the proposed mineral activities
14 would affect lands not subject to this title in addi-
15 tion to lands subject to this title, in order to approve
16 a plan of operations the Secretary concerned shall
17 enter into a cooperative agreement with the State
18 that sets forth a common regulatory framework con-
19 sistent with the requirements of this title for the
20 purposes of such plan of operations. Any such com-
21 mon regulatory framework shall not negate the au-
22 thority of the Federal Government to independently
23 inspect mines and operations and bring enforcement
24 actions for violations.

1 (2) All fees received under section
2 344(a)(1)(B).

3 (3) All donations by persons, corporations, as-
4 sociations, and foundations for the purposes of this
5 subtitle.

6 (4) All amounts deposited in the Abandoned
7 Hardrock Mine Reclamation Program under subtitle
8 A.

9 (5) All income on investments under section
10 451(b).

11 (6) All amounts deposited in the Abandoned
12 Hardrock Mine Reclamation Program under section
13 451.

14 (b) DONATIONS.—The Secretary may accept for the
15 Government a gift of money to be deposited into the Aban-
16 doned Hardrock Mine Reclamation Program. The Sec-
17 retary may reject a gift to the Abandoned Hardrock Mine
18 Reclamation Program if such rejection is in the interest
19 of the Government.

20 **SEC. 452. DISPLACED MATERIAL RECLAMATION FEE.**

21 (a) IMPOSITION OF FEE.—Except as provided in sub-
22 section (g), each operator conducting hardrock mineral ac-
23 tivities shall pay to the Secretary, for deposit in the Aban-
24 doned Hardrock Mine Reclamation Program, a displaced

1 material reclamation fee of 7 cents per ton of displaced
2 material.

3 (b) PAYMENT DEADLINE.—Such reclamation fee
4 shall be paid not later than 60 days after the end of each
5 calendar year beginning with the first calendar year occur-
6 ring after the date of enactment of this Act.

7 (c) SUBMISSION OF STATEMENT.—Together with
8 such reclamation fee, all operators conducting hardrock
9 mineral activities shall submit to the Secretary a state-
10 ment of the amount of displaced material produced during
11 mineral activities during the previous calendar year, the
12 accuracy of which shall be sworn to by the operator and
13 notarized.

14 (d) PENALTY.—Any corporate officer, agent, or di-
15 rector of a person conducting hardrock mineral activities,
16 and any other person acting on behalf of such a person,
17 who knowingly makes any false statement, representation,
18 or certification, or knowingly fails to make any statement,
19 representation, or certification, required under this section
20 with respect to such operation shall, upon conviction, be
21 punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000.

22 (e) CIVIL ACTION TO RECOVER FEE.—Any portion
23 of such reclamation fee not properly or promptly paid pur-
24 suant to this section shall be recoverable, with statutory
25 interest, from the hardrock mineral activities operator, in

1 any court of competent jurisdiction in any action at law
2 to compel payment of debts.

3 (f) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section requires a re-
4 duction in, or otherwise affects, any similar fee required
5 under any law (including regulations) of any State.

6 (g) EXEMPTION.—The fee under this section shall
7 not apply for small miners.

8 **Subtitle E—Additional Provisions**

9 **SEC. 461. POLICY FUNCTIONS.**

10 (a) MINERALS POLICY.—Section 101 of the Mining
11 and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 21a) is
12 amended—

13 (1) by inserting “and to ensure that mineral ex-
14 traction and processing not cause undue degradation
15 of the natural and cultural resources of the public
16 lands” after “activities”; and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following: “It shall
18 also be the responsibility of the Secretary of Agri-
19 culture to carry out the policy provisions of clauses
20 (1) and (2) of the first paragraph of this section.”.

21 (b) MINERAL DATA.—Section 5(e)(3) of the National
22 Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development
23 Act of 1980 (30 U.S.C. 1604(e)(3)) is amended by insert-
24 ing before the period the following: “, except that for Na-
25 tional Forest System lands the Secretary of Agriculture

1 shall promptly initiate actions to improve the availability
2 and analysis of mineral data in public land use decision-
3 making”.

4 **SEC. 462. USER FEES AND INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—

6 (1) The Secretary and the Secretary of Agri-
7 culture may each establish and collect from persons
8 subject to the requirements of this title such user
9 fees as may be necessary to reimburse the United
10 States for the expenses incurred in administering
11 such requirements. Fees may be assessed and col-
12 lected under this section only in such manner as
13 may reasonably be expected to result in an aggre-
14 gate amount of the fees collected during any fiscal
15 year which does not exceed the aggregate amount of
16 administrative expenses referred to in this section.

17 (b) ADJUSTMENT.—

18 (1) INFLATION.—The Secretary shall adjust the
19 fees required by this section, and all claim mainte-
20 nance fees, rental rates, penalty amounts, and other
21 dollar amounts established in this title, to reflect
22 changes in the Consumer Price Index published by
23 the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of
24 Labor every 3 years after the date of enactment of

1 this Act, or more frequently if the Secretary deter-
2 mines an adjustment to be reasonable.

3 (2) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide
4 claimants, license holders, and lease holders notice of
5 any adjustment made under this subsection not later
6 than July 1 of any year in which the adjustment is
7 made.

8 (3) APPLICABILITY.—A fee adjustment under
9 this subsection shall begin to apply the calendar year
10 following the calendar year in which it is made.

11 **SEC. 463. INSPECTION AND MONITORING.**

12 (a) INSPECTIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned
14 shall make inspections of mineral activities so as to
15 ensure compliance with the requirements of this
16 title.

17 (2) FREQUENCY.—The Secretary concerned
18 shall establish a frequency of inspections for mineral
19 activities conducted under a permit issued under
20 title III, but in no event shall such inspection fre-
21 quency be less than one complete inspection per cal-
22 endar quarter or, two per calendar quarter in the
23 case of a permit for which the Secretary concerned
24 approves an application under section 344(f). After
25 revegetation has been established in accordance with

1 a reclamation plan, such Secretary shall conduct 2
2 complete inspections annually. Such Secretary shall
3 have the discretion to modify the inspection fre-
4 quency for mineral activities that are conducted on
5 a seasonal basis. Inspections shall continue under
6 this subsection until final release of financial assur-
7 ance.

8 (3) BY REQUEST.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Any person who has
10 reason to believe he or she is or may be ad-
11 versely affected by mineral activities due to any
12 violation of the requirements of a permit ap-
13 proved under this title may request an inspec-
14 tion.

15 (B) REVIEW PERIOD.—The Secretary con-
16 cerned shall determine within 10 working days
17 of receipt of the request whether the request
18 states a reason to believe that a violation exists.

19 (C) IMMEDIATE THREAT.—If the person al-
20 leges and provides reason to believe that an im-
21 minent threat to the environment or danger to
22 the health or safety of the public exists, the 10-
23 day period shall be waived and the inspection
24 shall be conducted immediately.

1 (D) NOTIFICATION.—When an inspection
2 is conducted under this paragraph, the Sec-
3 retary concerned shall notify the person re-
4 questing the inspection, and such person shall
5 be allowed to accompany the Secretary con-
6 cerned or the Secretary’s authorized representa-
7 tive during the inspection.

8 (E) LIABILITY.—The Secretary shall not
9 incur any liability for allowing such person to
10 accompany an authorized representative.

11 (F) ANONYMITY.—The identity of the per-
12 son supplying information to the Secretary re-
13 lating to a possible violation or imminent dan-
14 ger or harm shall remain confidential with the
15 Secretary if so requested by that person, unless
16 that person elects to accompany an authorized
17 representative on the inspection.

18 (G) PROCEDURES.—The Secretaries shall,
19 by joint rule, establish procedures for the review
20 of—

21 (i) any decision by an authorized rep-
22 resentative not to inspect; or

23 (ii) any refusal by such representative
24 to ensure that remedial actions are taken
25 with respect to any alleged violation.

1 (H) WRITTEN STATEMENT.—The Sec-
2 retary concerned shall furnish a person request-
3 ing a review a written statement of the reasons
4 for the Secretary's final disposition of the case.

5 (b) MONITORING.—

6 (1) MONITORING SYSTEM.—The Secretary con-
7 cerned shall require all operators to develop and
8 maintain a monitoring and evaluation system that
9 shall identify compliance with all requirements of a
10 permit approved under this title. The Secretary con-
11 cerned may require additional monitoring to be con-
12 ducted as necessary to assure compliance with the
13 reclamation and other environmental standards of
14 this title. Such plan must be reviewed and approved
15 by the Secretary and shall become a part of the ex-
16 plorations or operations permit.

17 (2) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The operator
18 shall file reports with the Secretary concerned, on a
19 frequency determined by the Secretary concerned, on
20 the results of the monitoring and evaluation process,
21 except that if the monitoring and evaluation show a
22 violation of the requirements of a permit approved
23 under this title, it shall be reported immediately to
24 the Secretary concerned. The Secretary shall evalu-
25 ate the reports submitted pursuant to this para-

1 graph, and based on those reports and any necessary
2 inspection shall take enforcement action pursuant to
3 this section. Such reports shall be maintained by the
4 operator and by the Secretary and shall be made
5 available to the public.

6 (3) FAILURE TO REPORT.—The Secretary con-
7 cerned shall determine what information shall be re-
8 ported by the operator pursuant to paragraph (2). A
9 failure to report as required by the Secretary con-
10 cerned shall constitute a violation of this title and
11 subject the operator to enforcement action pursuant
12 to section 466.

13 **SEC. 464. CITIZENS SUITS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
15 (c), any person may commence a civil action on his or her
16 own behalf to compel compliance—

17 (1) against any person (including the Secretary
18 or the Secretary of Agriculture) who is alleged to be
19 in violation of any of the provisions of this title or
20 any regulation promulgated pursuant to this title or
21 any term or condition of any lease, license, or permit
22 issued under this title; or

23 (2) against the Secretary or the Secretary of
24 Agriculture where there is alleged a failure of such
25 Secretary to perform any act or duty under this

1 title, or to promulgate any regulation under this
2 title, which is not within the discretion of the Sec-
3 retary concerned.

4 (b) DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION.—The United
5 States district courts shall have jurisdiction over actions
6 brought under this section, without regard to the amount
7 in controversy or the citizenship of the parties, including
8 actions brought to apply any civil penalty under this title.
9 The district courts of the United States shall have juris-
10 diction to compel agency action unreasonably delayed, ex-
11 cept that an action to compel agency action reviewable
12 under section 465 may only be filed in a United States
13 district court within the circuit in which such action would
14 be reviewable under section 465.

15 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—

16 (1) NOTICE.—No action may be commenced
17 under subsection (a) before the end of the 60-day
18 period beginning on the date the plaintiff has given
19 notice in writing of such alleged violation to the al-
20 leged violator and the Secretary concerned, except
21 that any such action may be brought immediately
22 after such notification if the violation complained of
23 constitutes an imminent threat to the environment
24 or to the health or safety of the public or to prop-

1 erties eligible for listing on the National Register of
2 Historic Places.

3 (2) ON-GOING LITIGATION.—No action may be
4 brought against any person other than the Secretary
5 or the Secretary of Agriculture under subsection
6 (a)(1) if such Secretary has commenced and is dili-
7 gently prosecuting a civil or criminal action in a
8 court of the United States to require compliance.

9 (3) EXCEPTION.—No action may be commenced
10 under subsection (a)(2) against either Secretary to
11 review any rule promulgated by, or to any permit
12 issued or denied by such Secretary if such rule or
13 permit issuance or denial is judicially reviewable
14 under section 465 or under any other provision of
15 law at any time after such promulgation, issuance,
16 or denial is final.

17 (d) VENUE.—Venue of all actions brought under this
18 section shall be determined in accordance with section
19 1391 of title 28, United States Code.

20 (e) COSTS.—The court, in issuing any final order in
21 any action brought pursuant to this section may award
22 costs of litigation (including attorney and expert witness
23 fees) to any party whenever the court determines such
24 award is appropriate. The court may, if a temporary re-
25 straining order or preliminary injunction is sought, require

1 the filing of a bond or equivalent security in accordance
2 with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

3 (f) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall
4 restrict any right which any person (or class of persons)
5 may have under chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code,
6 under this section, or under any other statute or common
7 law to bring an action to seek any relief against the Sec-
8 retary or the Secretary of Agriculture or against any other
9 person, including any action for any violation of this title
10 or of any regulation or permit issued under this title or
11 for any failure to act as required by law. Nothing in this
12 section shall affect the jurisdiction of any court under any
13 provision of title 28, United States Code, including any
14 action for any violation of this title or of any regulation
15 or permit issued under this title or for any failure to act
16 as required by law.

17 **SEC. 465. ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.**

18 (a) REVIEW BY SECRETARY.—

19 (1) NOTICE OF VIOLATION.—Any person issued
20 a notice of violation or cessation order under section
21 467, or any person having an interest which is or
22 may be adversely affected by such notice or order,
23 may apply to the Secretary concerned for review of
24 the notice or order within 30 days after receipt
25 thereof, or as the case may be, within 30 days after

1 such notice or order is modified, vacated, or termi-
2 nated.

3 (2) REVIEW OF PENALTY.—Any person who is
4 subject to a penalty assessed under section 467 may
5 apply to the Secretary concerned for review of the
6 assessment within 45 days of notification of such
7 penalty.

8 (3) THIRD-PARTY REQUESTS.—Any person may
9 apply to the Secretary concerned for review of a de-
10 cision under this subsection within 30 days after
11 such decision is issued.

12 (4) STAYS PENDING REVIEW.—Pending a re-
13 view by the Secretary or resolution of an administra-
14 tive appeal, final decisions (except enforcement ac-
15 tions under section 467) shall be stayed.

16 (5) PUBLIC HEARING.—The Secretary con-
17 cerned shall provide an opportunity for a public
18 hearing at the request of any party to the pro-
19 ceeding as specified in paragraph (1). The filing of
20 an application for review under this subsection shall
21 not operate as a stay of any order or notice issued
22 under section 466.

23 (6) WRITTEN DECISION.—For any review pro-
24 ceeding under this subsection, the Secretary con-
25 cerned shall make findings of fact and shall issue a

1 written decision incorporating therein an order
2 vacating, affirming, modifying, or terminating the
3 notice, order, or decision, or with respect to an as-
4 sessment, the amount of penalty that is warranted.
5 Where the application for review concerns a ces-
6 sation order issued under section 466 the Secretary
7 concerned shall issue the written decision within 30
8 days of the receipt of the application for review or
9 within 30 days after the conclusion of any hearing
10 referred to in paragraph (5), whichever is later, un-
11 less temporary relief has been granted by the Sec-
12 retary concerned under paragraph (7).

13 (7) TEMPORARY RELIEF.—Pending completion
14 of any review proceedings under this subsection, the
15 applicant may file with the Secretary concerned a
16 written request that the Secretary grant temporary
17 relief from any order issued under section 466 to-
18 gether with a detailed statement giving reasons for
19 such relief. The Secretary concerned shall expedi-
20 tiously issue an order or decision granting or deny-
21 ing such relief. The Secretary concerned may grant
22 such relief under such conditions as he or she may
23 prescribe only if such relief shall not adversely affect
24 the health or safety of the public or cause imminent
25 environmental harm to land, air, or water resources.

1 (8) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—The availability of re-
2 view under this subsection shall not be construed to
3 limit the operation of rights under section 464.

4 (b) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

5 (1) COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF
6 COLUMBIA.—Any final action by the Secretaries of
7 the Interior and Agriculture in promulgating regula-
8 tions to implement this title, or any other final ac-
9 tions constituting rulemaking to implement this title,
10 shall be subject to judicial review only in a United
11 States Court of Appeals for a circuit in which an af-
12 fected State is located or within the District of Co-
13 lumbia. Any action subject to judicial review under
14 this subsection shall be affirmed unless the court
15 concludes that such action is arbitrary, capricious,
16 or otherwise inconsistent with law. A petition for re-
17 view of any action subject to judicial review under
18 this subsection shall be filed within 60 days from the
19 date of such action, or after such date if the petition
20 is based solely on grounds arising after the 60th
21 day. Any such petition may be made by any person
22 who commented or otherwise participated in the
23 rulemaking or any person who may be adversely af-
24 fected by the action of the Secretaries.

1 (2) STANDARD OF REVIEW.—Final agency ac-
2 tion under this subsection, including such final ac-
3 tion on those matters described under subsection
4 (a), shall be subject to judicial review in accordance
5 with paragraph (4) and pursuant to section 1391 of
6 title 28, United States Code, on or before 60 days
7 from the date of such final action. Any action sub-
8 ject to judicial review under this subsection shall be
9 affirmed unless the court concludes that such action
10 is arbitrary, capricious, or otherwise inconsistent
11 with law.

12 (3) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—The availability of judi-
13 cial review established in this subsection shall not be
14 construed to limit the operations of rights under sec-
15 tion 464.

16 (4) RECORD.—The court shall hear any petition
17 or complaint filed under this subsection solely on the
18 record made before the Secretary or Secretaries con-
19 cerned. The court may affirm or vacate any order or
20 decision or may remand the proceedings to the Sec-
21 retary or Secretaries for such further action as it
22 may direct.

23 (5) COMMENCE OF A PROCEEDING NOT A
24 STAY.—The commencement of a proceeding under
25 this section shall not, unless specifically ordered by

1 the court, operate as a stay of the action, order, or
2 decision of the Secretary or Secretaries concerned.

3 (c) COSTS.—Whenever a proceeding occurs under
4 subsection (a) or (b), at the request of any person, a sum
5 equal to the aggregate amount of all costs and expenses
6 (including attorney fees) as determined by the Secretary
7 or Secretaries concerned or the court to have been reason-
8 ably incurred by such person for or in connection with par-
9 ticipation in such proceedings, including any judicial re-
10 view of the proceeding, may be assessed against either
11 party as the court, in the case of judicial review, or the
12 Secretary or Secretaries concerned in the case of adminis-
13 trative proceedings, deems appropriate if it is determined
14 that such party prevailed in whole or in part, achieving
15 some success on the merits, and that such party made a
16 substantial contribution to a full and fair determination
17 of the issues.

18 **SEC. 466. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

19 (a) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—An operator engaging
20 in any mineral activities located on Federal land or on In-
21 dian land shall submit to the Secretary an annual report,
22 in a time and manner prescribed by the Secretary, describ-
23 ing the total amount (in metric tons) and value of
24 hardrock minerals produced through such mineral activi-
25 ties, including the total amount and value of any minerals

1 produced from a mine partially located on either Federal
2 land or Indian land, disaggregated by mineral and by per-
3 centage extracted from Federal land and percentage ex-
4 tracted from Indian land.

5 (b) FAILURE TO REPORT.—Any person who fails to
6 comply with the requirements of subsection (a) shall be
7 subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000 per day
8 during which such failure continues, which may be as-
9 sessed by the Secretary.

10 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
11 submit an annual report to Congress providing the fol-
12 lowing information for each hardrock mine located on
13 Federal land or on Indian land:

14 (1) The data submitted for such mine under
15 subsection (a).

16 (2) The name of the mine operator.

17 (3) The State in which such mine is located.

18 (4) The Bureau of Land Management Field Of-
19 fice with jurisdiction over such mine.

20 (5) Whether such mine is located on Federal
21 land.

22 (6) Whether such mine is located on Indian
23 land.

24 (d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate
25 such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section

1 not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of
2 this Act.

3 **SEC. 467. ENFORCEMENT.**

4 (a) ORDERS.—

5 (1) NOTICE OF VIOLATION.—If the Secretary
6 concerned, or an authorized representative of such
7 Secretary, determines that any person is in violation
8 of any environmental protection requirement or any
9 regulation issued by the Secretaries to implement
10 this title, such Secretary or authorized representa-
11 tive shall issue to such person a notice of violation
12 describing the violation and the corrective measures
13 to be taken. The Secretary concerned, or the author-
14 ized representative of such Secretary, shall provide
15 such person with a period of time not to exceed 30
16 days to abate the violation. Such period of time may
17 be extended by the Secretary concerned upon a
18 showing of good cause by such person. If, upon the
19 expiration of time provided for such abatement, the
20 Secretary concerned, or the authorized representa-
21 tive of such Secretary, finds that the violation has
22 not been abated he or she shall immediately order a
23 cessation of all mineral activities or the portion
24 thereof relevant to the violation.

1 (2) ORDER FOR IMMEDIATE CESSATION.—If the
2 Secretary concerned, or the authorized representa-
3 tive of the Secretary concerned, determines that any
4 condition or practice exists, or that any person is in
5 violation of any requirement under a permit ap-
6 proved under this title, and such condition, practice
7 or violation is causing, or can reasonably be expected
8 to cause either of the following, such Secretary or
9 authorized representative shall immediately order a
10 cessation of mineral activities or the portion thereof
11 relevant to the condition, practice, or violation:

12 (A) An imminent danger to the health or
13 safety of the public.

14 (B) Significant, imminent environmental
15 harm to land, air, water, or fish or wildlife re-
16 sources.

17 (3) DURATION.—

18 (A) TERMINATION.—A cessation order
19 pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) shall remain
20 in effect until such Secretary, or authorized
21 representative, determines that the condition,
22 practice, or violation has been abated, or until
23 modified, vacated or terminated by the Sec-
24 retary or authorized representative. In any such
25 order, the Secretary or authorized representa-

1 tive shall determine the steps necessary to abate
2 the violation in the most expeditious manner
3 possible and shall include the necessary meas-
4 ures in the order.

5 (B) FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.—The Sec-
6 retary concerned shall require appropriate fi-
7 nancial assurances to ensure that the abate-
8 ment obligations are met when issuing an order
9 under this section.

10 (C) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.—
11 Any notice or order issued pursuant to para-
12 graph (1) or (2) may be modified, vacated, or
13 terminated by the Secretary concerned or an
14 authorized representative of such Secretary.
15 Any person to whom any such notice or order
16 is issued shall be entitled to a hearing on the
17 record.

18 (4) ALTERNATIVE ENFORCEMENT ACTION.—If,
19 after 30 days of the date of the order referred to in
20 subsection (a) the required abatement has not oc-
21 curred, the Secretary concerned shall take such al-
22 ternative enforcement action against the claim hold-
23 er, license holder, lease holder, or operator (or any
24 person who controls the claim holder, license holder,
25 lease holder, or operator) as will most likely bring

1 about abatement in the most expeditious manner
2 possible. Such alternative enforcement action may
3 include seeking appropriate injunctive relief to bring
4 about abatement. Nothing in this paragraph shall
5 preclude the Secretary concerned from taking alter-
6 native enforcement action prior to the expiration of
7 30 days.

8 (5) FAILURE OR DEFAULT.—If a claim holder,
9 license holder, lease holder, or operator (or any per-
10 son who controls the claim holder, license holder,
11 lease holder, or operator) fails to abate a violation
12 or defaults on the terms of the permit, the Secretary
13 concerned shall forfeit the financial assurance for
14 the plan as necessary to ensure abatement and rec-
15 lamation under this title. The Secretary concerned
16 may prescribe conditions under which a surety may
17 perform reclamation in accordance with the ap-
18 proved plan in lieu of forfeiture.

19 (6) PENDING REVIEW.—The Secretary con-
20 cerned shall not cause forfeiture of the financial as-
21 surance while administrative or judicial review is
22 pending.

23 (7) LIABILITY IN THE EVENT OF FOR-
24 FEITURE.—In the event of forfeiture, the claim hold-
25 er, license holder, lease holder, operator, or any affil-

1 iate thereof, as appropriate as determined by the
2 Secretary by rule, shall be jointly and severally liable
3 for any remaining reclamation obligations under this
4 title.

5 (b) COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary concerned may re-
6 quest the Attorney General to institute a civil action for
7 relief, including a permanent or temporary injunction or
8 restraining order, or any other appropriate enforcement
9 order, including the imposition of civil penalties, in the dis-
10 trict court of the United States for the district in which
11 the mineral activities are located whenever a person—

12 (1) violates, fails, or refuses to comply with any
13 order issued by the Secretary concerned under sub-
14 section (a); or

15 (2) interferes with, hinders, or delays the Sec-
16 retary concerned in carrying out an inspection under
17 section 463.

18 Such court shall have jurisdiction to provide such relief
19 as may be appropriate. Any relief granted by the court
20 to enforce an order under paragraph (1) shall continue
21 in effect until the completion or final termination of all
22 proceedings for review of such order unless the district
23 court granting such relief sets it aside.

24 (c) DELEGATION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
25 sion of law, the Secretary may utilize personnel of the Of-

1 fice of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to
2 ensure compliance with the requirements of this title.

3 (d) PENALTIES.—

4 (1) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS
5 OF A PERMIT.—Any person who fails to comply with
6 any requirement of a permit approved under this
7 title or any regulation issued by the Secretaries to
8 implement this title shall be liable for a penalty of
9 not more than \$25,000 per violation. Each day of
10 violation may be deemed a separate violation for
11 purposes of penalty assessments.

12 (2) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH A CESSATION
13 ORDER.—A person who fails to correct a violation
14 for which a cessation order has been issued under
15 subsection (a) within the period permitted for its
16 correction shall be assessed a civil penalty of not less
17 than \$1,000 per violation for each day during which
18 such failure continues.

19 (3) PENALTIES FOR DIRECTORS, OFFICERS,
20 AND AGENTS.—Whenever a corporation is in viola-
21 tion of a requirement of a permit approved under
22 this title or any regulation issued by the Secretaries
23 to implement this title or fails or refuses to comply
24 with an order issued under subsection (a), any direc-
25 tor, officer, or agent of such corporation who know-

1 ingly authorized, ordered, or carried out such viola-
2 tion, failure, or refusal shall be subject to the same
3 penalties as may be imposed upon the person re-
4 ferred to in paragraph (1).

5 (e) SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS.—The Secretary
6 concerned shall suspend or revoke a permit issued under
7 title II, in whole or in part, if the operator—

8 (1) knowingly made or knowingly makes any
9 false, inaccurate, or misleading material statement
10 in any mining claim, notice of location, application,
11 record, report, plan, or other document filed or re-
12 quired to be maintained under this title;

13 (2) fails to abate a violation covered by a ces-
14 sation order issued under subsection (a);

15 (3) fails to comply with an order of the Sec-
16 retary concerned;

17 (4) refuses to permit an audit pursuant to this
18 title;

19 (5) fails to maintain an adequate financial as-
20 surance under section 346;

21 (6) fails to pay claim maintenance fees, rentals,
22 or other moneys due and owing under this title; or

23 (7) with regard to plans conditionally approved
24 under section 345(c)(2), fails to abate a violation to
25 the satisfaction of the Secretary concerned, or if the

1 validity of the violation is upheld on the appeal
2 which formed the basis for the conditional approval.

3 (f) FALSE STATEMENTS; TAMPERING.—Any person
4 who knowingly—

5 (1) makes any false material statement, rep-
6 resentation, or certification in, or omits or conceals
7 material information from, or unlawfully alters, any
8 mining claim, notice of location, application, record,
9 report, plan, or other documents filed or required to
10 be maintained under this title; or

11 (2) falsifies, tampers with, renders inaccurate,
12 or fails to install any monitoring device or method
13 required to be maintained under this title,

14 shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more
15 than \$10,000, or by imprisonment for not more than 2
16 years, or by both. If a conviction of a person is for a viola-
17 tion committed after a first conviction of such person
18 under this subsection, punishment shall be by a fine of
19 not more than \$20,000 per day of violation, or by impris-
20 onment of not more than 4 years, or both. Each day of
21 continuing violation may be deemed a separate violation
22 for purposes of penalty assessments.

23 (g) KNOWING VIOLATIONS.—Any person who know-
24 ingly—

1 (1) engages in mineral activities without a per-
2 mit required under title II; or

3 (2) violates any other requirement of a permit
4 issued under this title, or any condition or limitation
5 thereof,

6 shall upon conviction be punished by a fine of not less
7 than \$5,000 nor more than \$50,000 per day of violation,
8 or by imprisonment for not more than 3 years, or both.

9 If a conviction of a person is for a violation committed
10 after the first conviction of such person under this sub-
11 section, punishment shall be a fine of not less than
12 \$10,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment of not
13 more than 6 years, or both.

14 (h) **KNOWING AND WILLFUL VIOLATIONS.**—Any per-
15 son who knowingly and willfully commits an act for which
16 a civil penalty is provided in paragraph (1) of subsection
17 (g) shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not
18 more than \$50,000, or by imprisonment for not more than
19 2 years, or both.

20 (i) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this section, the
21 term “person” includes any officer, agent, or employee of
22 a person.

23 **SEC. 468. REGULATIONS.**

24 The Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall
25 issue such regulations as are necessary to implement this

1 title. The regulations implementing subtitles B and C and
2 this title that affect the Forest Service shall be joint regu-
3 lations issued by both Secretaries, and shall be issued not
4 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this
5 Act.

6 **SEC. 469. OIL SHALE CLAIMS.**

7 Section 2511(f) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (30
8 U.S.C. 242(f); Public Law 102–486) is amended—

9 (1) by striking “as prescribed by the Sec-
10 retary”; and

11 (2) by inserting before the period the following:
12 “in the same manner as required by title II of the
13 Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act of 2023”.

14 **SEC. 470. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

15 (a) SPECIAL APPLICATION OF MINING LAWS.—Noth-
16 ing in this title shall be construed as repealing or modi-
17 fying any Federal law, regulation, order, or land use plan,
18 in effect prior to the date of enactment of this Act that
19 prohibits or restricts the application of the general mining
20 laws, including laws that provide for special management
21 criteria for operations under the general mining laws as
22 in effect prior to the date of enactment of this Act, to
23 the extent such laws provide for protection of natural and
24 cultural resources and the environment greater than re-
25 quired under this title, and any such prior law shall re-

1 main in force and effect with respect to claims converted
2 to leases under this title. Nothing in this title shall be con-
3 strued as applying to or limiting mineral investigations,
4 studies, or other mineral activities conducted by any Fed-
5 eral or State agency acting in its governmental capacity
6 pursuant to other authority. Nothing in this title shall af-
7 fect or limit any assessment, investigation, evaluation, or
8 listing pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
9 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
10 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), or the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42
11 U.S.C. 3251 et seq.).

12 (b) EFFECT ON OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—

13 (1) GENERAL MINING LAWS.—The provisions of
14 this title shall supersede the general mining laws.

15 (2) OTHER LAWS.—Except for the general min-
16 ing laws, nothing in this title shall be construed as
17 superseding, modifying, amending, or repealing any
18 provision of Federal law not expressly superseded,
19 modified, amended, or repealed by this title.

20 (3) ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—Nothing in this
21 title shall be construed as altering, affecting, amend-
22 ing, modifying, or changing, directly or indirectly,
23 any law which refers to and provides authorities or
24 responsibilities for, or is administered by, the Envi-
25 ronmental Protection Agency or the Administrator

1 of the Environmental Protection Agency, includ-
2 ing—

3 (A) the Federal Water Pollution Control
4 Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

5 (B) the National Environmental Policy Act
6 of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

7 (C) title XIV of the Public Health Service
8 Act (the Safe Drinking Water Act) (42 U.S.C.
9 300f et seq.);

10 (D) the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et
11 seq.);

12 (E) the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990
13 (42 U.S.C. 13101 et seq.);

14 (F) the Toxic Substances Control Act (15
15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.);

16 (G) the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and
17 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.);

18 (H) the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic
19 Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

20 (I) the Motor Vehicle Information and
21 Cost Savings Act (15 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.);

22 (J) the Federal Hazardous Substances Act
23 (15 U.S.C. 1261 et seq.);

24 (K) the Endangered Species Act of 1973
25 (16 U.S.C. 1540);

1 (L) the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42
2 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

3 (M) the Noise Control Act of 1972 (42
4 U.S.C. 4901 et seq.);

5 (N) the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42
6 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.);

7 (O) the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
8 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of
9 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.);

10 (P) the Superfund Amendments and Reau-
11 thorization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-499;
12 100 Stat. 1613);

13 (Q) the Ocean Dumping Act (33 U.S.C.
14 1401 et seq.);

15 (R) the Environmental Research, Develop-
16 ment, and Demonstration Authorization Act of
17 1978 (42 U.S.C. 4365);

18 (S) the Pollution Prosecution Act of 1990
19 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; Public Law 101-593);

20 (T) the Federal Facilities Compliance Act
21 of 1992 (Public Law 102-386; 106 Stat.
22 1505); and

23 (U) any statute containing an amendment
24 to any of such Acts.

1 (4) FEDERAL INDIAN LAW.—Nothing in this
2 title shall be construed as modifying or affecting any
3 provision of—

4 (A) the Native American Graves Protection
5 and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.);

6 (B) American Indian Religious Freedom
7 Act (42 U.S.C. 1996);

8 (C) the National Historic Preservation Act
9 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.);

10 (D) the Religious Freedom Restoration Act
11 of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq.); or

12 (E) the Archaeological Resources Protec-
13 tion Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.).

14 (c) SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY OF INDIAN TRIBES.—
15 Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to waive
16 the sovereign immunity of any Indian Tribe.

17 **SEC. 471. AVAILABILITY OF PUBLIC RECORDS.**

18 Copies of records, reports, inspection materials, or in-
19 formation obtained by the Secretary or the Secretary of
20 Agriculture under this title shall be made immediately
21 available to the public, consistent with section 552 of title
22 5, United States Code, in central and sufficient locations
23 in the county, multicounty, and State area of mineral ac-
24 tivities or reclamation so that such items are conveniently

1 available to residents in the area proposed or approved for
2 mineral activities and on the internet.

3 **SEC. 472. MISCELLANEOUS POWERS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out his or her duties
5 under this title, the Secretary concerned may conduct any
6 investigation, inspection, or other inquiry necessary and
7 appropriate and may conduct, after notice, any hearing
8 or audit, necessary and appropriate to carrying out his
9 or her duties.

10 (b) ANCILLARY POWERS.—In connection with any
11 hearing, inquiry, investigation, or audit under this title,
12 the Secretary, or for National Forest System lands the
13 Secretary of Agriculture, is authorized to take any of the
14 following actions:

15 (1) Require, by special or general order, any
16 person to submit in writing such affidavits and an-
17 swers to questions as the Secretary concerned may
18 reasonably prescribe, which submission shall be
19 made within such reasonable period and under oath
20 or otherwise, as may be necessary.

21 (2) Administer oaths.

22 (3) Require by subpoena the attendance and
23 testimony of witnesses and the production of all
24 books, papers, records, documents, matter, and ma-
25 terials, as such Secretary may request.

1 (4) Order testimony to be taken by deposition
2 before any person who is designated by such Sec-
3 retary and who has the power to administer oaths,
4 and to compel testimony and the production of evi-
5 dence in the same manner as authorized under para-
6 graph (3) of this subsection.

7 (5) Pay witnesses the same fees and mileage as
8 are paid in like circumstances in the courts of the
9 United States.

10 (c) ENFORCEMENT.—In cases of refusal to obey a
11 subpoena served upon any person under this section, the
12 district court of the United States for any district in which
13 such person is found, resides, or transacts business, upon
14 application by the Attorney General at the request of the
15 Secretary concerned and after notice to such person, shall
16 have jurisdiction to issue an order requiring such person
17 to appear and produce documents before the Secretary
18 concerned. Any failure to obey such order of the court may
19 be punished by such court as contempt thereof and subject
20 to a penalty of up to \$10,000 a day.

21 (d) ENTRY AND ACCESS.—Without advance notice
22 and upon presentation of appropriate credentials, the Sec-
23 retary concerned or any authorized representative there-
24 of—

1 (1) shall have the right of entry to, upon, or
2 through the site of any claim, license, lease, mineral
3 activities, or any premises in which any records re-
4 quired to be maintained under this title are located;

5 (2) may at reasonable times, and without delay,
6 have access to records, inspect any monitoring
7 equipment, or review any method of operation re-
8 quired under this title;

9 (3) may engage in any work and do all things
10 necessary or expedient to implement and administer
11 the provisions of this title;

12 (4) may, on any mining claim, license, or lease
13 maintained in compliance with this title, and without
14 advance notice, stop and inspect any motorized form
15 of transportation that such Secretary has probable
16 cause to believe is carrying hardrock minerals, con-
17 centrates, or products derived therefrom from a
18 claim site for the purpose of determining whether
19 the operator of such vehicle has documentation re-
20 lated to such hardrock minerals, concentrates, or
21 products derived therefrom as required by law, if
22 such documentation is required under this title; and

23 (5) may, if accompanied by any appropriate law
24 enforcement officer, or an appropriate law enforce-
25 ment officer alone, stop and inspect any motorized

1 form of transportation which is not on a claim site
2 if he or she has probable cause to believe such vehi-
3 cle is carrying hardrock minerals, concentrates, or
4 products derived therefrom from a claim site, li-
5 cense, or lease on Federal lands or allocated to such
6 claim site, license, or lease. Such inspection shall be
7 for the purpose of determining whether the operator
8 of such vehicle has the documentation required by
9 law, if such documentation is required under this
10 title.

11 **SEC. 473. MINERAL MATERIALS.**

12 (a) DETERMINATIONS.—Section 3 of the Act of July
13 23, 1955 (30 U.S.C. 611), is amended—

14 (1) in the heading, by striking “**OR CINDERS**”
15 and inserting “**CINDERS, AND CLAY**”;

16 (2) by striking “No” and inserting “(a) No”;

17 (3) by inserting “mineral materials, including”
18 after “varieties of”;

19 (4) by striking “or cinders” and inserting “cin-
20 ders, and clay”; and

21 (5) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(b)(1) Subject to valid existing rights, after the date
23 of enactment of the Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act
24 of 2023, notwithstanding the reference to common vari-
25 eties in subsection (a) and to the exception to such term

1 relating to a deposit of materials with some property giv-
2 ing it distinct and special value, all deposits of mineral
3 materials referred to in such subsection, including the
4 block pumice referred to in such subsection, shall be sub-
5 ject to disposal only under the terms and conditions of
6 the Materials Act of 1947 (30 U.S.C. 601–603).

7 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘valid
8 existing rights’ means that a mining claim located for any
9 such mineral material—

10 “(A) had and still has some property giving it
11 the distinct and special value referred to in sub-
12 section (a), or as the case may be, met the definition
13 of block pumice referred to in such subsection;

14 “(B) was properly located and maintained
15 under the general mining laws prior to the date of
16 enactment of the Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act
17 of 2023; and

18 “(C) was supported by a discovery of a valuable
19 mineral deposit within the meaning of the general
20 mining laws as in effect immediately prior to the
21 date of enactment of the Clean Energy Minerals Re-
22 form Act of 2023.”.

23 (b) MINERAL MATERIALS DISPOSAL CLARIFICA-
24 TION.—Section 4 of the Act of July 23, 1955 (30 U.S.C.
25 612), is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b) by inserting “and mineral
2 material” after “vegetative”; and

3 (2) in subsection (c) by inserting “and mineral
4 material” after “vegetative”.

5 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1 of the
6 Act of July 31, 1947, entitled “An Act to provide for the
7 disposal of materials on the public lands of the United
8 States” (30 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by striking
9 “common varieties of” in the first sentence.

10 (d) SHORT TITLES.—

11 (1) SURFACE RESOURCES.—The Act of July
12 23, 1955, is amended by inserting after section 7
13 the following new section:

14 “SEC. 8. This Act may be cited as the ‘Surface Re-
15 sources Act of 1955’.”.

16 (2) MINERAL MATERIALS.—The Act of July 31,
17 1947, entitled “An Act to provide for the disposal of
18 materials on the public lands of the United States”
19 (30 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by inserting
20 after section 4 the following new section:

21 “SEC. 5. This Act may be cited as the ‘Materials Act
22 of 1947’.”.

23 (e) REPEALS.—(1) Subject to valid existing rights,
24 the Act of August 4, 1892 (chapter 375; 27 Stat. 348;

1 30 U.S.C. 161), commonly known as the Building Stone
2 Act, is hereby repealed.

3 (2) Subject to valid existing rights, the Act of Janu-
4 ary 31, 1901 (chapter 186; 31 Stat. 745; 30 U.S.C. 162),
5 commonly known as the Saline Placer Act, is hereby re-
6 pealed.

7 **SEC. 474. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8 This title shall take effect on the date of enactment
9 of this Act, except as otherwise provided in this title.

