



NATIONAL STONE, SAND
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

May 16, 2023

The Honorable Pete Stauber
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Stauber,

On behalf of the 450 members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 3195, a bill to rescind Public Land Order 7917, to reinstate mineral leases and permits in the Superior National Forest, to ensure timely review of Mine Plans of Operations and for other purposes. This legislation aims to reverse the mineral withdrawal in Northern Minnesota and reinstate the longstanding mining leases that were terminated as a part of the 20-year ban.

NSSGA proudly represents the nation's aggregates industry, which conducts over 9,000 operations and employs over 100,000 citizens annually that create 2.5 billion tons of aggregates each year. These raw materials are essential to rebuild and repair our country's aging infrastructure and assist our nation's goals in lowering the overall energy cost for families. We firmly believe in the responsible and sustainable development of our nation's abundant mineral resources to support economic growth, job creation and national security.

Reinstating the mining leases in Northern Minnesota will allow for the creation of hundreds of high-paying jobs and millions of dollars in economic investment, which would revitalize communities in the region. The legislation would facilitate improvements in infrastructure, education and public services that would have a lasting positive impact on the lives of local residents.

In addition to the economic benefits, the proposed legislation would also contribute to the United States' efforts to reduce dependence on foreign mineral imports, particularly those designated as critical minerals. By promoting domestic production, we can strengthen our national security and minimize the risks associated with supply chain disruptions. Moreover, with a strong emphasis on responsible mining practices and environmental stewardship, the potential mineral development can be both sustainable and environmentally conscious.



As the CEO of the NSSGA, I encourage you to support this forthcoming legislation and champion responsible access to our nation's valuable mineral resources. By endorsing this legislation, we can together create a brighter future for the communities we serve.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Michael W. Johnson
President & CEO
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association

