

Isaac Schultz
State Representative
Deputy Speaker pro tempore
District 10B
Morrison, Benton,
Mille Lacs, Kanabec,
and Isanti Counties



Minnesota House of Representatives

February 24, 2026

Honorable Members of the United States Senate:

I am writing today in support of H.J. Res. 140, which would repeal the Biden administration's 20-year mining ban on 225,504 acres in Northern Minnesota's Superior National Forest.

We as a country are presently dependent on foreign nations for the minerals that we use in our everyday life. In the blink of an eye, we could lose access to the materials that power our economy and our nation.

The U.S. is already making progress concerning the expansion of domestic processing, with a new nickel refinery under construction being one example, and if we continue to expand, here in the 250th year of our nation, we will have the ability to compete, create, and be energy independent.

The Duluth Complex in Northern Minnesota is home to the largest untapped copper-nickel deposit in the world. There is real mineral wealth, that if utilized, could supply the materials America needs far into the future. This would have a multi-fold effect on our economy, creating and sustaining jobs in mining, administration, construction, maintenance, transportation, and sanitation.

But with the mining ban imposed in the final days of the Biden administration, these precious resources are just out of reach, leaving us continually dependent on foreign nations instead of our own workforce.

As someone who treasures Minnesota's abundant natural resources and unique beauty, I would never support any project that I believe could threaten its pristine landscapes. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is a national treasure. Repealing this mining ban within the Superior National Forest would in no way jeopardize the outdoor recreation opportunities that you and I — and our descendants — will continue to enjoy for generations to come.

Passing H.J. Res. 140 creates the opportunity for mining and economic development projects to follow the highest environmental standards found anywhere in the world, right here in the United States, and especially in Minnesota. Reversing this mining ban is the responsible, forward-looking, and America-first policy which will drive growth, innovation, and opportunity for generations to come in Northern Minnesota and across our great country.

I respectfully ask that you support H.J. Res. 140.

Sincerely,

Isaac Schultz
State Representative, House District 10B
Member, Minnesota House Environment and Natural Resources Committee