To require congressional approval of any mineral withdrawal or monument designation involving the National Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota, to provide for the renewal of certain mineral leases in such lands, and for other purposes.
A BILL

To require congressional approval of any mineral withdrawal or monument designation involving the National Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota, to provide for the renewal of certain mineral leases in such lands, and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Minnesota’s Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act”.

SEC. 2. CONDITION ON MINERAL WITHDRAWAL OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN MINNESOTA.

Minerals within the National Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota shall not be subject to withdrawal from disposition under United States mineral and geothermal leasing law unless the withdrawal is specifically approved by an Act of Congress enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. CONDITION ON MONUMENT DESIGNATION ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN MINNESOTA.

Section 320301 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) LIMITATION ON EXTENSION OR ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL MONUMENT IN MINNESOTA.—No extension or establishment of national monuments on National Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota may
be undertaken except by express authorization of Con-
gress.”.

SEC. 4. CLARIFYING THE NATURE OF MINERAL RIGHTS ON
FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN MINNESOTA.

(a) MINERAL LEASES ISSUED WITHIN FOREST SYS-
TEM LANDS IN MINNESOTA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All mineral leases issued
within the exterior boundaries of National Forest
System lands in the State of Minnesota under the
508b), or section 402 of Reorganization Plan No. 3
of 1946 (5 U.S.C. App.), are indeterminate pref-
erence right leases that—

(A) shall be issued for an initial 20-year
period; and

(B) as provided in paragraph (2), shall be
renewable after the period described in subpara-
graph (A) for 10-year renewal periods.

(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL.—A lease
shall be renewed under paragraph (1)(B)—

(A) if the lessee has complied with the
terms and conditions of the lease during the
preceding lease period; and

(B) on the condition that, at the end of
each ten-year renewal period, such reasonable
readjustment of the terms and conditions of the lease may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, for the purpose of—

(i) encouraging production; or

(ii) addressing changing conditions within the lease area.

(b) SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS.—The Secretary of the Interior may suspend operations under a lease described in subsection (a) when—

(1) the lease can only be operated at a loss due to market conditions; or

(2) operations are interrupted by strikes.

c) PERMITS FOR USE OF SURFACE LANDS.—With respect to lands subject to a lease pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, may issue permits for the use of surface lands not included in the lease for purposes connected with, and reasonably necessary to, the exploration, development, and use of the deposits covered by the lease.

d) APPLICABILITY TO MINERAL LEASES.—This section shall apply with respect to all mineral leases described in subsection (a), including—

(1) leases that on the date of the enactment of this section are not in effect; and
(2) the hard rock mineral leases for the Superior National Forest in Minnesota identified as MNES–01352 and MNES–01353.

(e) APPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969.—The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.) shall apply with respect to a mineral lease described in subsection (a). In the case of the renewal of the existing hard rock mineral leases referred to in subsection (d)(2), the Bureau of Land Management shall complete the pending environmental assessment no later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) EXCLUSION OF BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS.—Nothing in this section may be construed as permitting the prospecting for development and utilization of mineral resources within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness or Mine Protection Area.
To require congressional approval of any mineral withdrawal or monument designation involving the National Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota, to provide for the renewal of certain mineral leases in such lands, and for other purposes.

A BILL

[Report No. 115-422]

H. R. 3905

115TH CONGRESS

1ST SESSION

NOVEMBER 21, 2017

COMMITTEE ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMENDED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE UNION AND ORDERED TO BE PRINTED

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