

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3872

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands to make that Act applicable to hardrock minerals.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 2025

Mr. FALLON (for himself and Mr. MORAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands to make that Act applicable to hardrock minerals.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Mineral Extraction for  
5 Renewable Industry and Critical Applications Act of  
6 2025” or the “MERICA Act of 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF MINERAL LEASING ACT FOR AC-**  
8 **QUIRED LANDS TO HARDROCK MINERALS.**

9 The Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30  
10 U.S.C. 351 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 2 (30 U.S.C. 351)—

2 (A) by striking “Act ‘United States’” and  
3 inserting the following: “Act:

4 “(1) UNITED STATES.—The term ‘United  
5 States’”;

6 (B) by striking “Alaska. ‘Acquired lands’”  
7 and inserting the following: “Alaska.

8 “(2) ACQUIRED LANDS; LANDS ACQUIRED BY  
9 THE UNITED STATES.—The term ‘acquired lands’”;

10 (C) by striking “552). ‘Secretary’” and in-  
11 serting the following: “552).

12 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’”;

13 (D) by striking “Interior. ‘Mineral leasing  
14 laws’ shall mean” and inserting the following:  
15 “Interior.

16 “(4) MINERAL LEASING LAWS.—The term ‘min-  
17 eral leasing laws’ means”;

18 (E) by striking “Acts. ‘Lease’” and insert-  
19 ing the following: “Acts.

20 “(5) LEASE.—The term ‘lease’”;

21 (F) by striking “requires. The term” and  
22 inserting the following: “requires.

23 “(6) OIL.—The term”; and

24 (G) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(7)     HARDROCK     MINERAL.—The     term  
2     ‘hardrock mineral’—

3           “(A) includes deposits of—

4                 “(i) minerals found in sedimentary or  
5     other rocks;

6                 “(ii) base metals;

7                 “(iii) precious metals;

8                 “(iv) industrial metals; and

9                 “(v)     precious     and     semi-precious  
10     gemstones; and

11          “(B) does not include deposits of—

12                 “(i) coal;

13                 “(ii) oil;

14                 “(iii) oil shale;

15                 “(iv) gas;

16                 “(v) sodium;

17                 “(vi) potassium;

18                 “(vii) sulfur; or

19                 “(viii) mineral materials subject to  
20     disposition under the Act of July 31, 1947,  
21     commonly known as the Materials Act of  
22     1947 (30 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).”; and

1           (2) in section 3 (30 U.S.C. 352), by striking  
2       “and sulfur” and inserting “sulfur, and hardrock  
3       minerals”.

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