

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6674

To amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to update provisions related to the hardrock mining claim maintenance fee established under that Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 11, 2025

Ms. STANSBURY (for herself and Mr. HUFFMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to update provisions related to the hardrock mining claim maintenance fee established under that Act, and for other purposes.

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 “Conserving Lands and
5 Areas Incompatible with Mining Act of 2025” or the
6 “CLAIM Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. HARDROCK MINING CLAIM MAINTENANCE FEE.**

2 Subtitle B of title X of the Omnibus Budget Rec-
3 onciliation Act of 1993 (30 U.S.C. 28f et seq.) is amend-
4 ed—

5 (1) by striking “Secretary of the Interior” each
6 place it appears and inserting “Secretary”;

7 (2) in section 10101 (30 U.S.C. 28f)—

8 (A) in subsection (a)—

9 (i) in paragraph (1)—

10 (I) by striking “of \$100” and all
11 that follows through the end and in-
12 serting “per claim or site, respectively,
13 in accordance with the following.”;
14 and

15 (II) by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(A) For a claim or site the majority of
18 which is located within the boundary of a cov-
19 ered area, \$1,100.

20 “(B) For a claim or site the majority of
21 which is located between 0 and 10 miles from
22 the boundary of a covered area, \$1,000.

23 “(C) For a claim or site the majority of
24 which is located between 10 and 20 miles from
25 the boundary of a covered area, \$700.

1 “(D) For a claim or site the majority of
2 which is located between 20 and 30 miles from
3 the boundary of a covered area, \$500.

4 “(E) For a claim or site the majority of
5 which is located more than 30 miles from the
6 boundary of a covered area, \$300.”;

7 (ii) in paragraph (2), by striking the
8 second sentence; and

9 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(3) FEE IN LIEU OF ASSESSMENT
12 WORK.—A claim maintenance fee paid in ac-
13 cordance with paragraph (1) or (2) shall be in
14 lieu of the assessment work requirement con-
15 tained in the Mining Law of 1872 (30 U.S.C.
16 28–28e) and the related filing requirements
17 contained in subsections (a) and (c) of section
18 314 of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
19 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1744(a) and (c)).

20 “(4) EXEMPTION FOR SMALL MINERS.—
21 Paragraphs (1) and (2) and any assessment
22 work required by the Mining Law of 1872 (30
23 U.S.C. 28 et seq.) do not apply with respect to
24 a small miner.”; and

25 (B) by striking subsection (d);

1 (3) in section 10105 (30 U.S.C. 28j), by
2 amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

3 “(c) FEE ADJUSTMENTS.—

4 “(1) INFLATION.—The Secretary shall, not less
5 than once every 5 years after the date of the enact-
6 ment of the CLAIM Act of 2025, adjust each fee
7 paid under this section to reflect changes in the
8 Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of
9 Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor, or
10 more frequently if the Secretary determines an ad-
11 justment to be reasonable.

12 “(2) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide
13 each claimant notice of any adjustment made under
14 this subsection not later than July 1 of the year in
15 which the adjustment is made.

16 “(3) APPLICABILITY.—A fee adjustment made
17 under this subsection shall begin to apply in the cal-
18 endar year following the calendar year in which it is
19 made.”; and

20 (4) by adding at the end the following:

21 **“SEC. 10107. USER FEES.**

22 “The Secretary may establish and collect from each
23 person subject to the requirements of this subtitle such
24 user fees as may be necessary to reimburse the United

1 States for expenses incurred in the administration of such
2 requirements.

3 **“SEC. 10108. USE OF CLAIM MAINTENANCE FEES.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use amounts
5 paid to the Secretary pursuant to section 10101(a) to ad-
6 minister the mining laws of the United States.

7 “(b) ALLOCATION OF EXCESS AMOUNTS.—With re-
8 spect to a given fiscal year, if amounts paid to the Sec-
9 retary pursuant to section 10101(a) are in excess of the
10 amount required for the Secretary to administer the min-
11 ing laws of the United States, the Secretary shall allocate
12 such excess amounts in accordance with the following:

13 “(1) 40 percent to the program established by
14 the Secretary under section 40704(a) of the Infra-
15 structure Investment and Jobs Act (30 U.S.C.
16 1245(a)).

17 “(2) 20 percent to the Tribal Historic Preserva-
18 tion Program.

19 “(3) 20 percent to the States on the basis of
20 the ratio of the number of patented and unpatented
21 mining claims, mill sites, and tunnel sites located
22 pursuant to the mining laws of the United States lo-
23 cated within a State to the total number of patented
24 and unpatented mining claims, mill sites, and tunnel

1 sites located pursuant to the mining laws of the
2 United States.

3 “(4) 10 percent to the Land and Water Con-
4 servation Fund established under section 200302 of
5 title 54, United States Code, which shall be consid-
6 ered income to the Land and Water Conservation
7 Fund for purposes of section 200302 of that title.

8 “(5) 10 percent to the National Parks and Pub-
9 lic Land Legacy Restoration Fund established by
10 section 200402(a) of title 54, United States Code.

11 **“SEC. 10109. DEFINITIONS.**

12 “In this subtitle:

13 “(1) CASUAL USE.—The term ‘casual use’—

14 “(A) means mineral activities that do not
15 ordinarily result in any disturbance of Federal
16 land and resources;

17 “(B) includes collection of geochemical,
18 rock, soil, or mineral specimens using
19 handtools, hand panning, or nonmotorized sluic-
20 ing; and

21 “(C) does not include—

22 “(i) the use of mechanized earth-mov-
23 ing equipment, suction dredging, or explo-
24 sives;

1 “(ii) the use of motor vehicles in areas
2 closed to motor vehicles;

3 “(iii) the construction of roads or drill
4 pads; or

5 “(iv) the use of toxic or hazardous
6 materials.

7 “(2) COVERED AREA.—The term ‘covered area’
8 means a—

9 “(A) unit of the National Park System;
10 and

11 “(B) national monument designated under
12 section 320301 of title 54, United States Code
13 (commonly known as the ‘Antiquities Act’).

14 “(3) HARDROCK MINERAL.—The term
15 ‘hardrock mineral’—

16 “(A) means any mineral that is subject to
17 location under the mining laws of the United
18 States and is not subject to disposition under—

19 “(i) the Mineral Leasing Act (30
20 U.S.C. 181 et seq.);

21 “(ii) the Geothermal Steam Act of
22 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.);

23 “(iii) the Act of July 31, 1947, com-
24 monly known as the Materials Act of 1947
25 (30 U.S.C. 601 et seq.); or

1 “(iv) the Mineral Leasing Act for Ac-
2 quired Lands (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.); and

3 “(B) does not include any mineral that is
4 subject to a restriction against alienation im-
5 posed by the United States and is—

6 “(i) held in trust by the United States
7 for any Indian or Indian Tribe; or

8 “(ii) owned by any Indian or Indian
9 Tribe.

10 “(4) INDIAN.—The term ‘Indian’ has the mean-
11 ing given the term in section 2 of the Indian Mineral
12 Development Act of 1982 (25 U.S.C. 2101).

13 “(5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’
14 has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the
15 Indian Mineral Development Act of 1982 (25 U.S.C.
16 2101).

17 “(6) MINERAL ACTIVITIES.—The term ‘mineral
18 activities’ means any activity carried out on a min-
19 ing claim, mill site, or tunnel site located pursuant
20 to the mining laws of the United States for, related
21 to, or incidental to, mineral exploration, mining,
22 beneficiation, processing, or reclamation activities
23 for any hardrock mineral.

24 “(7) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
25 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 “(8) SMALL MINER.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘small
3 miner’ means a person (including all related
4 parties) that—

5 “(i) holds not more than 10 mining
6 claims, mill sites, or tunnel sites, or any
7 combination thereof, on Federal land;

8 “(ii) holds or operates a mining claim,
9 mill site, or tunnel site with respect to not
10 more than 200 acres of Federal land;

11 “(iii) certifies to the Secretary in writ-
12 ing that, in the preceding calendar year,
13 the person had an annual gross income
14 from mineral production in an amount less
15 than \$50,000; and

16 “(iv) certifies to the Secretary in writ-
17 ing that the person will use each mining
18 claim, mill site, or tunnel site held or oper-
19 ated by the person only for casual use.

20 “(B) ANNUAL GROSS INCOME.—For pur-
21 poses of subparagraph (A)(iii), the dollar
22 amount shall be applied, for a person, to the
23 aggregate of all annual gross income from min-
24 eral production under each mining claim, mill
25 site, or tunnel site located pursuant to the min-

1 ing laws of the United States held by or as-
2 signed to such person and all related parties.

3 “(C) ALL RELATED PARTIES.—For pur-
4 poses of subparagraphs (A) and (B), with re-
5 spect to a person, the term ‘all related parties’
6 means—

7 “(i) the spouse or qualifying child (as
8 such term is defined in section 152 of the
9 Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of such
10 person;

11 “(ii) a person that controls, is con-
12 trolled by, or is under common control with
13 such person;

14 “(iii) a partner of such person; or

15 “(iv) a person that owns at least 10
16 percent of the voting shares of such per-
17 son.

18 “(D) CONTROL.—For purposes of subpara-
19 graph (C), the term ‘control’ means having the
20 ability, directly or indirectly, to determine
21 (without regard to whether exercised through 1
22 or more corporate structures) the manner in
23 which an entity conducts mineral activities,
24 through any means, including—

25 “(i) an ownership interest;

1 “(ii) the authority to commit the real
2 or financial assets of the entity;

3 “(iii) a position as a director, officer,
4 or partner of the entity; or

5 “(iv) a contractual arrangement.”.

○