

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7458

To codify notice requirements for mineral exploration activities on certain public lands, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2026

Ms. HAGEMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To codify notice requirements for mineral exploration activities on certain public lands, 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 “Domestic Opportuni-
5 ties for Resource Exploration Act” or the “Domestic ORE
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NOTICE FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES**
2 **WITH LIMITED SURFACE DISTURBANCE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days before
4 commencing an exploration activity with a surface disturb-
5 ance of not more than 25 acres of public lands, the oper-
6 ator of such exploration activity shall submit to the Sec-
7 retary concerned a notice of such exploration activity.

8 (b) INCLUSIONS.—A notice submitted under sub-
9 section (a) shall include such information the Secretary
10 concerned may require, which may include information de-
11 scribed in section 3809.301 of title 43, Code of Federal
12 Regulations (or any successor regulation).

13 (c) REVIEW.—Not later than 15 days after the Sec-
14 retary concerned receives a notice of an exploration activ-
15 ity submitted under subsection (a), the Secretary con-
16 cerned shall—

17 (1) allow the exploration activity to proceed if—

18 (A) the surface disturbance of such explo-
19 ration activity will not be more than 25 acres
20 of public lands;

21 (B) the Secretary concerned determines
22 that the notice includes the information re-
23 quired under subsection (b); and

24 (C) the operator provides financial assur-
25 ance that the Secretary concerned determines is
26 adequate; or

1 (2) notify the operator that information is miss-
2 ing from the notice and specify any information that
3 is required to be included in the notice under sub-
4 section (b).

5 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) CASUAL USE.—The term “casual use” has
7 the meaning given such term in section 3809.5 of
8 title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on
9 the date of enactment of this Act).

10 (2) EXPLORATION ACTIVITY.—The term “explo-
11 ration activity”—

12 (A) means creating a surface disturbance
13 greater than casual use that includes sampling,
14 drilling, or developing surface or underground
15 workings to evaluate the type, extent, quantity,
16 or quality of minerals present;

17 (B) includes constructing drill roads and
18 drill pads, drilling, trenching, excavating test
19 pits, and conducting geotechnical tests and geo-
20 physical surveys; and

21 (C) does not include an activity in which
22 material is extracted for commercial use or sale.

23 (3) MINERAL.—The term “mineral” means any
24 mineral of a kind that is locatable under the Act of
25 May 10, 1872 (Chapter 152; 17 Stat. 91).

1 (4) OPERATOR.—The term “operator” has the
2 meaning given such term in section 3809.5 of title
3 43, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the
4 date of enactment of this Act).

5 (5) PUBLIC LAND.—The term “public land”
6 means land owned by the United States that is open
7 to location under the Act of May 10, 1872 (Chapter
8 152; 17 Stat. 91).

9 (6) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
10 retary concerned” means—

11 (A) with respect to land administered by
12 the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of
13 the Interior; and

14 (B) with respect to National Forest Sys-
15 tem land, the Secretary of Agriculture.

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