

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3686

To authorize the Economic Development Administration to make grants to producers of taconite for implementation of new technologies to increase productivity, to reduce costs, and to improve overall product quality and performance.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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

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## A BILL

To authorize the Economic Development Administration to make grants to producers of taconite for implementation of new technologies to increase productivity, to reduce costs, and to improve overall product quality and performance.

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 “Taconite Research Act  
5       of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) maintaining our Nation’s domestic steel in-  
4 dustry is essential to a peacetime or wartime econ-  
5 omy and critical to our national defense;

6 (2) about 98 percent of taconite is used in the  
7 iron and steel industry;

8 (3) taconite is the principal iron ore mined in  
9 the United States;

10 (4) Minnesota’s iron ore mining industry is  
11 vital to the State’s economy, is ranked 8th nationally  
12 in total nonfuel mineral production, and employs ap-  
13 proximately 4,000 people;

14 (5) Minnesota’s taconite production has de-  
15 creased by 14,000,000 metric tons since 1998;

16 (6) Northeastern Minnesota, which is heavily  
17 dependent on the taconite industry that needs new  
18 technologies, has at least 100 years of those reserves  
19 that can be economically produced; and

20 (7) the Natural Resources Research Institute of  
21 the University of Minnesota has developed improve-  
22 ments based on new technologies that taconite pro-  
23 ducing companies can implement, which will reduce  
24 production costs, improve the quality of taconite pel-  
25 lets, and produce a value-added high iron ore con-  
26 tent commodity.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANT AUTHORITY.**

2       The Economic Development Administration is au-  
3 thorized to make grants to producers of taconite to imple-  
4 ment new technologies to increase productivity, to reduce  
5 costs, and to improve overall product quality and perform-  
6 ance.

7 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8       There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
9 this Act \$100,000,000. Such sums shall remain authorized  
10 until expended.

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