

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO PUBLIC LAND ORDER NO. 7917 FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LANDS; COOK, LAKE, AND SAINT LOUIS COUNTIES, MN

SPEECH OF

**HON. PETE STAUBER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters and statements from North America's Building Trades Unions, Laborers' International Union of North America, and the International Union of Operating Engineers, in support of H.J. Res. 140.

NABTU STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR H.J. RES. 140

WASHINGTON, D.C.—January 16, 2026—Today, North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) President Sean McGarvey issued the following statement:

"Our nation is at a crucial inflection point. Will we continue to import critical minerals from less-than-reputable nations, or will we do what we must to address our industrial shortcomings?"

"Our members have waited decades for certain American mining projects to come to fruition. While these projects should not be blindly authorized, we hope that Congress recognizes that the longer these projects languish in bureaucratic red tape, the longer our members go without receiving a paycheck for their work in making our nation safer and more independent.

"H.J. Res. 140 recognizes our need to support domestic industries with a responsibly extracted supply of American minerals. In order to do so, we must address unnecessary bans that inhibit industrial growth.

"We thank Rep. Stauber for his continued leadership and commitment to alleviating the hurdles that keep our members from realizing work."

LIUNA!

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PRESIDENT BRENT BOOKER ON REPRESENTATIVE STAUBER'S MINNESOTA MINING LEGISLATION

[For Immediate Release—January 20, 2026]

WASHINGTON, D.C.—LIUNA General President Brent Booker made this statement regarding Representative Stauber's Minnesota Mining Legislation:

"The Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) urges Members of Congress to support H.J. Res. 140, a Congressional Review Act resolution that would restore our ability to responsibly develop critical minerals that are needed by our nation to combat climate change and protect our national security. For more than 130 years, mining in Minnesota has created family-supporting careers for generations of laborers.

Northern Minnesota is home to the world's largest known undeveloped copper-nickel deposit. The importance of mining these minerals in Minnesota echoes the determination that we build it all, here in America. Our in-

ability to mine only weakens our domestic production and outsources the jobs it creates. We thank Representative Stauber (R-MN) for introducing this legislation and urge bipartisan support."

INTERNATIONAL UNION  
OF OPERATING ENGINEERS,

January 21, 2026.

Re H.J. Res. 140—CRA to Overturn Mining Ban in Northern Minnesota.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN THUNE,  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,  
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND LEADERS THUNE, SCHUMER AND JEFFRIES: The International Union of Operating Engineers urges Congress to pass H.J. Res. 140 to overturn the mining ban in northern Minnesota, which contains the world's largest known undeveloped deposits of copper, nickel, cobalt and platinum group metals, in addition to significant helium resources.

The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) is one of North America's leading construction unions, representing over 410,000 hardworking men and women in the United States and Canada. Most members of the IUOE work in the construction sector, operating and maintaining heavy equipment; thousands of us are employed building the nation's roads, bridges, highways, and other transportation infrastructure.

The IUOE spends millions of dollars every year toward training our members. Our commitment to training is best displayed at our world-class International Training & Education Center (ITEC) located in Texas. The IUOE invested over \$150 million at the 265-acre ITEC facility so our members can train with the newest advances in safety and technology. It is the largest and most comprehensive training facility for union Operating and Stationary Engineers in North America.

In 2023, a federal mining ban, called a "mineral withdrawal" was enacted impacting 225,000 acres of federal lands in northeast Minnesota. It has prevented responsible development of these resources from moving forward, in addition to locking out any future exploration and mining in the region for 20 years.

Critical minerals are vital for every aspect of our modern lives, and reliable access to them is imperative for achieving our goals of energy independence, creating jobs, bolstering defense, bringing manufacturing home, and reducing our reliance on foreign sources.

Currently, critical minerals come from countries with the loosest, most egregious environmental and labor standards in the world—countries like Argentina, Chile, China, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Today nearly 40% of the world's copper is mined in Chile and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and most of the global supply is refined in China. The South American

and African countries' environmental and labor records, where workplace hazards and occupational deaths occur frequently, raise significant concern. China's prominence in the sector also presents a raft of policy considerations regarding labor and human rights abuses, environmental degradation, national security threats, and more.

The Duluth Complex in northern Minnesota is a world-class mineral deposit containing nearly 8 billion tons of critical minerals. If developed, this region could constitute 95 percent of America's nickel reserves, 88 percent of America's cobalt reserves, one-third of America's copper reserves, and 75 percent of U.S. platinum-group resources.

Removing the withdrawal does not remove environmental protections. Minnesota already has some of the world's most stringent environmental and labor standards. Any proposed project must go through the years-long, multi-agency environmental review before any mining operations can start.

We can mine these resources, and do so in a way that safeguards the environment. We must not rely on other countries who may have poor labor and environmental standards to meet our needs. Instead, we can and should lead the world in responsible mining. The path forward is to trust science, and to insist on strong governmental oversight and regulation.

Mining in northeast Minnesota has provided family-sustaining careers to thousands of Operating Engineers and others for over 130 years and has preserved the region's economy. We urge Congress to pass H.J. Res. 140 CRA to overturn the mining ban in Northern Minnesota so Operating Engineers can continue mining for the foreseeable future and work toward achieving our goal of energy independence for America.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

JOHN L. DOWNEY,  
General President.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNUAL GOVERNMENTAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

**HON. JIMMY PATRONIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2026

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring the 50th Annual Governmental Prayer Breakfast:

Whereas, the Governmental Prayer Breakfast in Pensacola, Florida, marks its 50th anniversary, reflecting a half-century tradition of bringing together citizens, faith leaders, and public servants in a spirit of prayer, unity, and reflection; and

Whereas, prayer has long served as a source of strength, guidance, and moral clarity for individuals, families, and communities, particularly during times of uncertainty and challenge; and

Whereas, the United States of America was founded on the principle that all people are created with inherent dignity and worth, endowed by God with unalienable rights that no government may grant or take away; and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Whereas, the freedom to live out one's faith openly and without fear remains essential to the character of our Nation and the vitality of our democratic institutions; and

Whereas, faith communities play a vital role in fostering compassion, service, and responsibility, strengthening families and supporting those who serve in positions of public trust; and

Whereas, elected officials, members of the judiciary, law enforcement, military personnel, and civic leaders bear significant responsibility in serving their communities with integrity, wisdom, and humility; and

Whereas, the Governmental Prayer Breakfast serves as an opportunity to pause from the demands of public life to seek guidance, express gratitude, and reaffirm a shared commitment to the common good;

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed, that the 50th Annual Governmental Prayer Breakfast in Pensacola, Florida, is hereby recognized and commended for its enduring contribution to the spiritual and civic life of the community; and

Be it further proclaimed, that this occasion stands as a reminder of the importance of faith, prayer, and moral conviction in public service, and the value of unity, humility, and service to others; and

Be it further proclaimed, that all participants are encouraged to continue praying for our Nation, our State, our community, and all those entrusted with the responsibilities of leadership, that they may serve with wisdom, courage, and compassion.

In witness whereof, this proclamation is issued in recognition of the 50th Annual Governmental Prayer Breakfast and the enduring role of faith in strengthening our community and our country.

HONORING MRS. ANN CAGGINS ON  
HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 30, 2026*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Mrs. Ann Caggins on the occasion of her 80th birthday and to include in the RECORD a tribute to a life of faith, family, and extraordinary service to community and country. A celebration to mark this singular occasion will be held on January 31, 2026, at the Page-Doleman Complex in Columbus, Georgia.

Ann Caggins's life is a testament to the values that strengthen families and communities across our Nation. Mrs. Caggins learned early that people, not places, create the memories and relationships that shape us. That insight guided a lifetime devoted to building community, developing young leaders, and serving others with humility and steadfast faith.

Mrs. Caggins is a graduate of the George Washington Carver High School in Columbus, Georgia. She is also a graduate of Pepperdine University with one of the Nation's early degrees in Human Resources Management. Mrs. Caggins built a distinguished career as a human resources professional. She served as Corporate Human Resources Officer for the Eastern Operations Headquarters of the American National Red Cross—overseeing a vast jurisdiction that included twenty states, key resource chapters, military installations, and the Caribbean—and she was named National Staffing Officer during the demanding Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm mobilization.

Her public service also included leadership as Human Resources Director for municipal government and as President and Chair of the Board of her local Society for Human Resource Management chapter. In addition to her professional achievements, Mrs. Caggins holds two professional HR certifications and serves as an instructor for certification testing, passing on knowledge to the next generation of leaders.

Equally notable is Mrs. Caggins's tireless volunteer leadership with Jack and Jill of America, Inc., where she devoted countless hours to developing young people and strengthening families. Over many years, she served as Chapter Program Chair, Teen Advisor (two terms), Vice President, Chapter President (two terms), Regional Teen Conference Chair, National Teen Task Force Chair, and National Tellers Committee Chair. She was honored as a Distinguished Mother and recognized for her role in fostering servant leadership in the Eastern Region. Under her guidance and in partnership with leaders like National President Nellie Thornton, the Eastern Region cultivated confident, service-minded youth—leaders such as John Applewhite, Lisa Bryant, Joseph Hurd, and Jennifer (Williams) West among many others.

Mrs. Caggins has been a champion of education and scholarships. She and her husband, Colonel (Ret.) Myles B. Caggins, Jr., have long supported the UNCF Columbus Campaign, raising record-breaking funds and serving as Co-Chairs; their philanthropic leadership garnered them MASKED (Mankind Assisting Students Kindle Educational Dreams) recognition and helped provide scholarships to first-generation college students and high school seniors.

Her community honors are numerous and well-earned: recipient of the Rosa Parks Women of Courage Award (2017), Gracious Lady of Georgia, Heads and Shoulders Above the Rest honoree, 50th Year Jack and Jill Northern Virginia Chapter Presidents honoree, and George Washington Carver High Honors Program speaker, The Whitney M. Young National Service Award Presented by the Chattahoochee Council of Boy Scouts of America, and the Legacy of Leadership Award from the Black History Observance Committee. She has served as Ledger-Enquirer Page One judge, held leadership roles in homeowners' associations, and has been praised as a mentor, professional, and servant-leader. She also serves as Chair Emerita of the Black History Observance Breakfast Committee.

Mrs. Caggins's life is grounded in faith and family. She and Colonel (Ret.) Myles B. Caggins, Jr., met while she was a student at Spelman College; they married a year after becoming engaged and have been married for almost six decades. They are members of The Church of Christ, where Mrs. Caggins continues to teach ladies' Bible class and live by five guiding commitments: to God, family and team, task, service, and personal development. Her devotion to family is reflected in her children—Angela M. (Caggins) Trammel (Ernest) and LTC (P) Myles B. Caggins, III—and grandchildren Eric M. Trammel and Ariana M. Trammel, who continue the legacy of service and leadership she helped cultivate.

Those who know Mrs. Caggins describe her as a woman of deep faith who "goes where God leads," a gracious leader whose work has enriched countless lives. Whether bal-

ancing the demands of a prominent HR career during wartime mobilization or spending late nights planning programs and mentoring teens, she has always centered service to others. She reminds us that community service is the hallmark of servant leadership and that a mother's involvement in her children's lives yields confident young people prepared to serve.

Mr. Speaker, on this milestone birthday, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District as we give thanks for Ann Caggins's life, for the countless hours she has given to young people and her community, and for the example of commitment, faith, and quiet leadership she embodies. We join her family, friends, and community in celebrating her 80th birthday and in offering gratitude for her many contributions. May God bless Mrs. Ann Caggins with continued health, joy, and the comfort of loved ones as she continues to bloom where she is planted.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN THE ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 30, 2026*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce my resolution condemning the ethnic violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Dr. King famously said, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." The United States, credible human rights organizations, and civil society have documented and published reports and findings that implicate the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda in aiding and collaborating with armed groups and militias, including several that are designated for United Nations sanctions due to human rights violations.

Militias engage in illicit mining activities to finance and sustain themselves, often exploiting child labor and engaging in environmental degradation practices that undermine the DRC's economic interests and international treaty obligations.

My resolution condemns all acts of violence perpetrated against ethnic minorities throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It reaffirms that the United States has held and continues to hold the governments of the DRC and Rwanda responsible for upholding the rights of all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, in accordance with international obligations.

My timely resolution also holds accountable all state security forces that perpetrate atrocities against the civilian population by conducting transparent investigations and prosecutions and taking all additional necessary measures to prevent further atrocities continue progress toward the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, reparation, and resettlement of armed groups in coordination with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2666 (2022). Last, it calls on President Donald Trump to appoint a Special