Dear Member,

Recently, Congressman Tom Emmer, introduced the MINER Act, H.R. 3905 or "Minnesota's Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act". The bill would require approval from elected Representatives in Congress for any federal proposal to withdraw land from mining, or establishment of national monuments in Minnesota. Additionally, it would allow the renewal of mineral leases in the area, and would ensure that future leases in the area remain valid and renewed. The bill is scheduled for mark-up in House Natural Resources on Wednesday, November 27th.

The bill is another direct attack on one of our nation’s bedrock conservation laws, exposes one of our nation's most treasured paddling resources, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, to the potential effects of mining pollution, and flatly ignores the overwhelming public support for protecting unique and sensitive federal lands and ocean areas through national monument designations.

Federal lands belong to all Americans. The Antiquities Act is used only to protect federal lands already owned by the American public. By carving out an exception for national forest lands within Minnesota, Section 3 of H.R. 3905 flies in the face of our nation’s shared public heritage and disregards how dearly the public values iconic public lands and waters, like Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park.

The ACA opposes H.R. 3905 for all of the above reasons and on behalf of our members in Minnesota, will call upon our entire membership base to write their congressional representatives in opposition of H.R. 3905.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly. I welcome your willingness to engage in conversation.

Sincerely,

Brett Mayer
Public Policy Chief
ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft – Rescue
bmayer@americancanoe.org
434-409-9026

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