



Rep. Tom Emmer on his new legislation, the MINER Act

Broadcast: October 13, 2017 • Duration: 3:15

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Hello everybody, Tom Emmer here, and this week I want to talk to you about the Miner Act I introduced last week and correct any misinformation that you might have heard about this legislation and explain why this fix is needed. I introduced the Miner Act last Tuesday, and the bottom line is that this bill will restore mining rights in Minnesota while leaving current environmental protections and requirements in place. Specifically, the Miner Act requires approval from representatives in Congress for any federal proposal to withdraw land from mining or the establishment of national monuments in Minnesota. It would allow for the renewal of mineral leases in the area, would ensure that future leases in the area remain valid and renewed so long as they are consistent with current law. One of the most widespread myths about this legislation is that it will harm Minnesota's boundary waters and fast-track mining. In reality, the Miner Act contains language that actually protects the boundary waters stating, In fact, this legislation will protect all of our forests, lakes, and streams by specifically requiring a stringent environmental review of any lease issued under the bill's provision. Another myth that I have heard is that this bill would not help Minnesota or our nation. The reality is actually quite the opposite. In their final hours, the Obama administration enacted a series of thoughtless anti-mining policies. Because of these harmful policies, northern Minnesota's bright future has significantly dimmed. Thousands of miners and their families, and the communities that depend on them, are barely getting by. These hard-working people, many of whose families have been mining for decades, are faced with the hard choice of leaving their community to seek out other opportunities or staying and continuing to struggle. Once booming, mining towns are in real danger of disappearing off the map completely. My legislation will allow for the creation of jobs, put our miners back to work, and bring economic prosperity to an area that very desperately needs it. Not only will this legislation lead to numerous jobs for those who desperately need them, it will also make it easier to acquire vital resources that we all use every day, whether we know it or not. Objects like cell phones, computers, cars, and windmills are only possible due to the mining of these crucial resources. I personally would rather responsibly mine right here in the United States than to rely on foreign nations to provide us with these resources. Many foreign nations do not abide by any sort of the environmental standards we require for these projects, nor do they have the same worker protections we have in this country. Mining matters, and I know that we can do so in a way that advances our state and nation all while protecting Minnesota's environment for future generations. I'm proud that the Miner Act will help do just that. If you have any questions about this legislation, please don't hesitate to contact me or a member of our staff. Thank you for listening, and have a great weekend.

This transcript was independently produced by MN-06 Watch for accountability and archival purposes.

Source: (October 13, 2017)

Archived: February 06, 2026

Source URL: <https://youtu.be/OhglaphcFnk>

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