

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands to make that Act
applicable to hardrock minerals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FALLON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands to
make that Act applicable to hardrock minerals.

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 “Mineral Extraction for
5 Renewable Industry and Critical Applications Act of
6 2025” or the “MERICA Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF MINERAL LEASING ACT FOR AC-**
2 **QUIRED LANDS TO HARDROCK MINERALS.**

3 The Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30
4 U.S.C. 351 et seq.) is amended—

5 (1) in section 2 (30 U.S.C. 351)—

6 (A) by striking “Act ‘United States’” and
7 inserting the following: “Act:

8 “(1) UNITED STATES.—The term ‘United
9 States’”;

10 (B) by striking “Alaska. ‘Acquired lands’”
11 and inserting the following: “Alaska.

12 “(2) ACQUIRED LANDS; LANDS ACQUIRED BY
13 THE UNITED STATES.—The term ‘acquired lands’”;

14 (C) by striking “552). ‘Secretary’” and in-
15 serting the following: “552).

16 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’”;

17 (D) by striking “Interior. ‘Mineral leasing
18 laws’ shall mean” and inserting the following:
19 “Interior.

20 “(4) MINERAL LEASING LAWS.—The term ‘min-
21 eral leasing laws’ means”;

22 (E) by striking “Acts. ‘Lease’” and insert-
23 ing the following: “Acts.

24 “(5) LEASE.—The term ‘lease’”;

25 (F) by striking “requires. The term” and
26 inserting the following: “requires.

1 “(6) OIL.—The term”; and

2 (G) by adding at the end the following:

3 “(7) HARDROCK MINERAL.—The term

4 ‘hardrock mineral’—

5 “(A) includes deposits of—

6 “(i) minerals found in sedimentary or

7 other rocks;

8 “(ii) base metals;

9 “(iii) precious metals;

10 “(iv) industrial metals; and

11 “(v) precious and semi-precious

12 gemstones; and

13 “(B) does not include deposits of—

14 “(i) coal;

15 “(ii) oil;

16 “(iii) oil shale;

17 “(iv) gas;

18 “(v) sodium;

19 “(vi) potassium;

20 “(vii) sulfur; or

21 “(viii) mineral materials subject to

22 disposition under the Act of July 31, 1947,

23 commonly known as the Materials Act of

24 1947 (30 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).”; and

1 (2) in section 3 (30 U.S.C. 352), by striking
2 “and sulfur” and inserting “sulfur, and hardrock
3 minerals”.