

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3872

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 2025

Mr. FALLON (for himself and Mr. MORAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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”.

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

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

1 (1) in section 2 (30 U.S.C. 351)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 (D) by striking “Interior. ‘Mineral leasing
14 laws’ shall mean” and inserting the following:
15 “Interior.

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

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

20 “(5) LEASE.—The term ‘lease’”;

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

23 “(6) OIL.—The term”; and

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

1 “(7) HARDROCK MINERAL.—The term
2 ‘hardrock mineral’—

3 “(A) includes deposits of—

4 “(i) minerals found in sedimentary or
5 other rocks;

6 “(ii) base metals;

7 “(iii) precious metals;

8 “(iv) industrial metals; and

9 “(v) precious and semi-precious
10 gemstones; and

11 “(B) does not include deposits of—

12 “(i) coal;

13 “(ii) oil;

14 “(iii) oil shale;

15 “(iv) gas;

16 “(v) sodium;

17 “(vi) potassium;

18 “(vii) sulfur; or

19 “(viii) mineral materials subject to
20 disposition under the Act of July 31, 1947,

21 commonly known as the Materials Act of

22 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”.

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