

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3872

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 16, 2025

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. APPLICATION OF MINERAL LEASING ACT FOR**  
2 **ACQUIRED 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 minerals; 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”.

Passed the House of Representatives December 15,  
2025.

Attest: **KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,**  
*Clerk.*