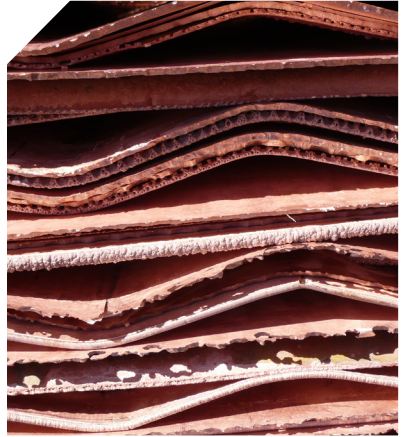


U.S. HOUSE VOTE DEMONSTRATES SUPPORT FOR MINING PROJECTS

On Sept. 18, the U.S. House of Representatives demonstrated its support for the domestic mining industry by approving, on a bipartisan vote, the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013 (H.R. 761). A majority of Minnesota's House members supported the legislation, also on a bipartisan basis. The bipartisan support for H.R. 761 is a clear indication of how important Congress believes the domestic mining industry is to the nation's economy and overall strategic interests.

If enacted into law, H.R. 761 would improve the regulatory review and permitting system for U.S. mining projects by improving coordination among regulatory agencies, clarifying agency responsibilities, avoiding costly redundant activities, and establishing reasonable and



certain deadlines for agency actions. An improved regulatory system would promote increased investment, job creation and economic growth throughout the country; all while maintaining existing rigorous environmental quality standards and protections vital to modern environmental stewardship.

The environmental standards and protections established in law, and enforced by state and federal regulatory agencies, are among the most stringent in the world. When coupled with a modern and efficient government regulatory process – as proposed in H.R. 761 – the U.S. can be a world leader in the development of critical mining projects that are both economically strong and environmentally responsible.

