To rescind Public Land Order 7917, to reinstate mineral leases and permits in the Superior National Forest, to ensure timely review of Mine Plans of Operations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To rescind Public Land Order 7917, to reinstate mineral leases and permits in the Superior National Forest, to ensure timely review of Mine Plans of Operations, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Superior National Forest Restoration Act”.
SEC. 2. SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN MINNESOTA.

(a) Rescission.—The order entitled “Public Land Order No. 7917 for Withdrawal of Federal Lands; Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties, MN”, issued by the Bureau of Land Management and dated January 31, 2023, is hereby rescinded.

(b) Timely Review.—The Secretary shall complete all necessary environmental and regulatory review, including processes subject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), for all Mine Plans of Operations within the Superior National Forest lands in the State of Minnesota—

(1) with respect to such Mine Plans of Operations submitted before the date of the enactment of this section, not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section; and

(2) with respect to a Mine Plan of Operations submitted or resubmitted in the 7 year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this section, not later than 18 months after the date on which such Mine Plan of Operations is submitted or resubmitted.

(c) Reissuance of Mineral Leases.—

(1) In general.—The Secretary shall issue each mineral lease, preference right lease, and
prospecting permit canceled by the Secretary relating to lands within Superior National Forest during the period beginning on January 31, 2021 and ending on the date of the enactment of this section on the same terms as were in effect on the date of such cancellations.

(2) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—A lease or permit issued under paragraph (1) is not subject to judicial review.

(d) SECRETARY DEFINED.—For the purposes of this section, the term “Secretary” means—

(1) the Secretary of the Interior; or

(2) when used with respect to any unit of the National Forest System, the Secretary of Agriculture.