

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2053

To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to enhance and support mining and mineral engineering programs in the United States by funding activities at mining schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. NOEM, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to enhance and support mining and mineral engineering programs in the United States by funding activities at mining schools, and for other purposes.

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 “Mining School En-
5 hancement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR MINING SCHOOLS.**

2 Section 721 of the Surface Mining Control and Rec-
3 lamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1309b) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “The Office of Surface Mining
5 Reclamation and Enforcement” and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the
8 Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement”;
9 and

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

11 “(b) MINING PROGRAM SUPPORT.—

12 “(1) Of the amounts made available under this
13 Act for activities authorized under this section, the
14 Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclama-
15 tion and Enforcement shall ensure that at least 50
16 percent is expended to enhance and support mining
17 and mineral engineering programs in the United
18 States by funding activities at mining schools.

19 “(2) In expending funds under this section, the
20 Director shall consult with relevant stakeholders and
21 ensure a significant opportunity for participation by
22 undergraduate and graduate students at mining
23 schools.

24 “(3) The Director shall ensure that the activi-
25 ties conducted under this section relate to resource
26 development and production, and include—

1 “(A) studies of mining, mineral extraction
2 efficiency, and related processing technology;

3 “(B) mineral economics, reclamation tech-
4 nology, and practices for active mining oper-
5 ations;

6 “(C) the development of remining systems
7 and technologies that facilitate reclamation that
8 fosters the recovery of resources at abandoned
9 mine sites;

10 “(D) investigations of mineral resource ex-
11 traction methods that reduce environmental and
12 human impacts;

13 “(E) reducing dependence on foreign en-
14 ergy supplies;

15 “(F) enhancing the competitiveness of
16 United States energy technology exports;

17 “(G) the extraction or processing of coin-
18 ciding mineralization, including rare earth ele-
19 ments, within coal, coal processing byproduct,
20 overburden or coal residue; and

21 “(H) enhancing technologies and practices
22 related to mitigation of acid mine drainage, re-
23 forestation, and revegetation in the reclamation
24 of land and water resources adversely affected
25 by coal mining.

1 “(c) MINING SCHOOL DEFINED.—In this section the
2 term ‘mining school’ means a mining, metallurgical, or
3 mineral engineering program or department accredited by
4 the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology,
5 Inc., that is located at an institution of higher education
6 (as that term is defined in section 631(a) of the Higher
7 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1132(a))) in the United
8 States.”.

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