

HR 3872

MERICA Act of 2025

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Energy

Introduced: Jun 10, 2025

Current Status: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining. Hearing

Latest Action: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining. Hearings held. (Feb 12, 2026)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/3872>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Fallon, Pat [R-TX-4]

Party: Republican • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Moran, Nathaniel [R-TX-1]	R · TX		Jun 10, 2025
Rep. Harrigan, Pat [R-NC-10]	R · NC		Jun 24, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 16, 2025
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Feb 12, 2026
Natural Resources Committee	House	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Sep 3, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

This bill specifies that all federally acquired lands are eligible to be considered for hardrock mineral leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (MLAAL). The bill defines the term *hardrock mineral* to (1) include deposits of minerals found in sedimentary or other rocks, base metals, precious metals, industrial minerals, and precious and semi-precious gemstones; and (2) exclude deposits of coal, oil, oil shale, gas, sodium, potassium, sulfur, or mineral materials subject to disposition under the Materials Act of 1947.

By way of background, hardrock minerals are not currently listed under the MLAAL as deposits subject to a lease, while mineral resources such as coal, phosphate, oil, gas, gilsonite, and sulfur are listed. As a result, federal lands may be leased for mining hardrock minerals only if the federal lands were acquired under a statute, such as the Weeks Act, that specifically authorizes the land to be used for hardrock mineral leasing.

voice vote. (text: CR H5884)

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- **Dec 15, 2025:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 15, 2025:** Mr. Stauber moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Dec 15, 2025:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5884-5885)
- **Dec 15, 2025:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 3872.
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- **Oct 31, 2025:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Natural Resources. H. Rept. 119-357.

- Jun 10, 2025:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
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