

April 2, 2024

Chair Hawj and members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee:

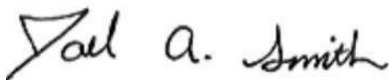
On behalf of the 14,000 members of Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Minnesota and North Dakota and their families, I am writing to express our support for establishing a Critical Materials Recovery Advisory Task Force (SF 4523/HF 4550). The proposed task force is one important step toward ensuring that Minnesota can help supply critical minerals needed to make technological progress and halt climate change.

LIUNA members build and maintain Minnesota's infrastructure, including transportation, water and energy systems that provide the foundation for a clean, equitable and inclusive economy. Our organization has been on the forefront of efforts to secure a prosperous clean energy future by supporting policies and projects designed to deliver affordable, reliable, and increasingly clean power and heat.

Minnesota has been a leader in the production of critical minerals and has the potential to help lead in the production and recovery of minerals used to manufacture clean technologies ranging from wind and solar generators to electric vehicle and utility-scale batteries to transformers and electrolyzers.

SF 4523/HF 4550 will help our state better understand how we can leverage our resources and expertise to recover critical minerals while creating family-supporting jobs and growing our economy. We urge you to establish a Critical Materials Recovery Advisory Task Force. Thank you for your consideration.

In Solidarity,



Joel Smith  
President and Business Manager  
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota