

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 28, 2016

The Honorable Tom Tidwell
Chief
United States Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Tidwell,

We are writing to request that the U.S. Forest Service hold a public comment and listening session on the Iron Range regarding the renewal of two proposed mineral leases (MNES-01352 and MNES-01353). We believe it is important that interested stakeholders are able to voice their opinions, and holding a public comment and listening session on the Iron Range will ensure that a diversity of views are reflected.

Earlier this month, the Bureau of Land Management requested that the U.S. Forest Service provide guidance on whether or not the agency consents to renew these mineral leases in the Superior National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service subsequently announced that before a decision is made, the agency would solicit public comment for 30-days, beginning on June 20, 2016. As part of the public comment period, the U.S. Forest Service announced one public comment and listening session in Duluth on July 13, 2016.

We want to make sure that stakeholders have the opportunity to provide input as requested by the U.S. Forest Service. For that reason, we urge you to hold a public comment and listening session on the Iron Range.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator


Al Franken
United States Senator


Rick Nolan
Member of Congress