

SUPPORT FOR FOREST SERVICE AS CO-LEAD FOR ANY NEPA-REQUIRED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF TWIN METALS MINE PLAN ADJACENT TO THE BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, a mine plan of operation for a Twin Metals sulfide-ore copper mine adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA) and upstream of Voyageurs National Park was submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on December 18, 2019, along with applications for federal mineral leases. The proposed mine site is on Superior National Forest land in Minnesota. NEPA-required environmental review is expected to commence early in 2020.

The Superior National Forest and the BWCA are managed by the Forest Service. Under 16 USC Sec. 508b the Forest Service has independent consent authority for mining approvals in the Superior National Forest and thus has co-equal authority for mining decisions. For 20 months in 2017 and 2018, the Forest Service led a detailed study of environmental, economic, and social impacts of copper mining in the watershed of the BWCA.

For all of these reasons, Congress expects that any NEPA-required environmental review of a Twin Metals mine plan and federal mineral leases be co-led by the Forest Service and the BLM, and not led solely by the BLM.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2019 NORTHERN VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Mr. CONNOLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2019 recipients of the Northern Virginia Leadership Awards presented by Leadership Fairfax.

Leadership Fairfax is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to inspire, connect, develop and engage the next generation of leaders in Northern Virginia so that they are prepared to serve and strengthen our community. Graduates from its programs become part of a fast-growing network of civic leaders. I've always said, "When you walk into a crowded room, it's easy to spot the graduates of Leadership Fairfax—they just stand out."

Each year, Leadership Fairfax recognizes individuals or organizations that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made extraordinary contributions to our community. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2019 Northern Virginia Leadership Awards recipients:

Non-Profit Leader: Joe Meyer, CEO, Shelter House.

Corporate Leadership, Organization: Womble Bond Dickinson.

Corporate Leadership, Individual: Shirley Luu, Shirley Luu & Associates.

Regional Leadership: Danny Vargas, President, VARCom Solutions.

Trustee Leadership: Linda Mathes, CEO, Red Cross in the National Capital Region.

Educational Leadership: Rebecca Cousins, West Springfield High School.

Madam Speaker, the contributions of these individuals and organizations are one of the reasons why Fairfax is such a sought after community in which to live and work, and this year's honorees highlight the legacy of Leadership Fairfax in preparing our community's future leaders to address the challenges we face. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these honorees and thanking them for their service to Northern Virginia.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2019 NORTHERN VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Colonel Jacqueline Jayneen Jackson, on occasion of her retirement after over 30 years of service in the United States Army.

Colonel Jackson joined the Army in 1986 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Standford University. It was from there that she obtained a degree in political science. She went on to earn a law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and she entered the Judge Advocate General's Corps in 1989.

While on active duty, Colonel Jackson served in several roles, including trial counsel. These assignments took her to California, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Texas throughout her career.

Colonel Jackson continued her career in the United States Army Reserve (USAR) where she served in the USAR Element on the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C. She also served as a military social aide for the White House during the George H. Bush and Bill Clinton administrations.

Colonel Jackson's commendable service earned her multiple decorations, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Army Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal.

In her civilian life Colonel Jackson continues to answer the call for justice as an immigration judge with the Department of Justice in San Francisco.

Throughout her career, Colonel Jackson has carried on the legacy of her father, United States Air Force Technical Sergeant Edwin Jackson, who died in service to our country. Her exceptional work surely made both her father and mother, Edna Jackson, extremely proud. Colonel Jackson also draws support from her husband, Morris A. Graves, Jar.

On behalf of the Fifteenth Congressional District of California, I would like to commend Colonel Jackson on an impeccable career of dedicated service and offer her best wishes for a happy retirement.

12 DAYS OF SALT

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, to conclude my earlier remarks on the 12 Days of SALT, I rise to include in the RECORD the testimonials of mayors from New Jersey's 11th District attesting to the harm that the SALT cap has had on their communities.

On this ninth day of SALT, a bipartisan group of mayors in my district have shared with me, statements about how SALT is harming our residents in New Jersey's 11th Congressional District. Today, I'd like to share their words:

Mayor Molly Whilesmith of Sparta said:

"The exodus from New Jersey is nothing new. Our state and local property taxes have been amongst the highest in the nation for decades. New Jersey Snowbirds flocked South upon retirement. The current trend is to sell the house and pack the moving truck right after the youngest child graduates from high school. The cap makes NJ much less attractive for the average hardworking New Jersey Family."

Mayor Keith Kazmark of Woodland Park:

"The full SALT deduction must be reinstated for the benefit of New Jersey middle class families. Folks in our area were hardest hit by this change in the tax code. 51% of Woodland Park taxpayers pay more than \$10,000 in local property taxes and that does not include their state taxes. That's over 1,800 residential property owners in our town."

Mayor Bruce Harris of Chatham Borough said:

"The story for Chatham Borough is pretty simple. The average property tax bill is about \$14,100, so 40% is no longer deductible. Obviously, that impacts people's pockets; it also impacts housing values. NJ is a payer state—it sends much more to the federal government than it receives back."

According to Mayor Jeff Grayzel of Morris Township:

"We all teach our children to play fair, because fairness in one of the key elements that makes our democracy the great thing it is. However, the cap on SALT deductions is simply unfair and penalizes the residents of New Jersey. Let's be fair to all and drop this penalty on New Jerseyans."

Mayor John Kelley, Borough of Caldwell:

"Caldwell taxpayers are directly impacted and blindsided by the limits put on SALT deductions. Caldwell families manage their finances and tax liability closely and for many years have relied upon their state income taxes and Caldwell property taxes to reduce their federal income tax through itemized deductions. The impact of the limits on SALT deductions are felt throughout our community."

Mayor Michael Soriano, Parsippany:

"Parsippany is a community similar to many across the country, but unlike towns in other states, Congress decided to target our residents with a tax bill that limits their ability to deduct state and local taxes. Homeowners in Parsippany shouldn't have to pay more in federal tax dollars when we know the money isn't coming back to fund our schools or repair our roads."

Our mayors are on the ground in our communities and know that the SALT deduction

cap is harmful to our residents. This isn't a Republican or Democratic issue in our state. It's time for Congress to stop punishing our municipalities and our taxpayers and reinstate the full SALT deduction.