

H.R. 6862, Mineral Mining Parity Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 12, 2024

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2029	2024-2034
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = -500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 6862 would add mining projects to the list of projects that are eligible for a program operated by the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, which facilitates environmental reviews and permit approvals. The bill also would disapprove a proposed rule published by the council in September 2023 that would restrict eligibility for the program to the mining of critical minerals as defined by the U.S. Geological Survey.¹

The council received \$1 million annually from 2022 through 2026 from advance appropriations in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to operate the program. Those amounts were designated as an emergency requirement. Additionally, Public Law 117-169, an act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con Res. 14, provided \$350 million for those purposes in 2022. CBO projects that \$25 million of that \$350 million will remain unspent under current law.

Under the bill, the council could receive more applications for mining projects. Responding to such applications would increase the council’s operating costs and thus could increase

1. Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, “Revising Scope of the Mining Sector of Projects That Are Eligible for Coverage Under Title 41 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act,” 88 Fed. Reg. 65350 (September 22, 2023), <https://tinyurl.com/4hmybrrr>.



spending of amounts provided in P.L. 117-169 that would otherwise not be spent. Using information from the council, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 6862 would not affect many current or future mining projects; thus, any increases in direct spending would be insignificant.

In addition, if more mining applications are approved under H.R. 6862, the receipts collected from rents and royalties could increase. Rents and royalties paid on eligible mining projects on federal land are recorded in the budget as offsetting receipts—that is, as reductions in direct spending. A portion of those receipts are spent without further appropriation. Because CBO expects a small number of mining projects would be affected, we estimate that any additional receipts and associated direct spending would be insignificant.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Aurora Swanson and Lilia Ledezma. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip L. Swagel', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office