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CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE, OF TEXAS
COMMITTEE ON THE RULES
STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENTS TO
HR 761
“THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL
MINERALS PRODUCTION ACT”



JULY 9, 2013

First, I would like to thank Chairman Sessions and Ranking Member Slaughter for holding today's Rules Committee hearing on H.R. 761 the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013.”

My amendments are simple and are an important addition to this bill. I hope that all members of the Rules Committee will agree to support their inclusion in the Rule.

Jackson Lee Amendment #1 or Jackso_228

This Amendment requires the lead agency to consult with States that may be impacted by the mining not just the State where the mining is taking place. For example, this would protect a State that may get runoff or pollution from coal mining operations in a neighboring State. Strip coal mining can creates acid rain and runoff that can poison streams or rivers.

Jackson Lee Amendment #2 or Jackso_225

This Amendment would block the expedited mineral exploration and mining application review process that agencies must meet if the budget for the agency had been cut. This amendment would nullify the use of time limits if the budget of the agency is less than it was in the previous fiscal year.

Jackson Lee Amendment #3 or Jackso_331

This Amendment would allow access to funds provided the Equal Access to Justice Act. These funds allow attorneys fees to be paid by the federal government.

I urge all members of the Rules Committee to support these amendments. Thank you.