From: it@hugoandcat.com
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Reject the Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 9:31:47 AM

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I oppose the U.S. Forest Service taking any action to pursue the withdrawal of lands and minerals in northeastern Minnesota from future leasing, exploration and potential development. This action ignores the established and rigorous environmental review process for mining projects. The withdrawal would provide no additional environmental protections than those that currently exist under state and federal law and established environmental standards including the National Environmental Policy Act.

If enacted, the withdrawal proposal will cause the state of Minnesota to lose thousands of potential jobs that would result from future mining projects, billions of dollars in future investment in northeast Minnesota, and billions in potential revenues supporting the state's K-12 education system.

The targeted federal lands are in an area of historic mining activity where mining is currently allowed and encouraged by federal and state law.

The proposed withdrawal runs counter to President Biden's commitments to address the climate crisis, shore up domestic supply chains and bolster American jobs. The minerals in this area are critical for low-carbon technologies like electric vehicle batteries, wind turbines and solar panels, and the U.S. is currently reliant on foreign sources for these minerals.

I urge the U.S. Forest Service to reject this decision and its devastating impact on the future well-being of Minnesota citizens and communities.

Thank you.