From: kaiakapfer@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kaia Kapfer
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 1:18:31 AM

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Dear State Director of Geospatial Services F. David Radford,

Dear Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"),

I strongly support the proposed mineral withdrawal to protect the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness ("Boundary Waters"). The threats posed by sulfide-ore copper mining are unjustifiable in the watershed of such a sensitive and important area.

I heavily support the mineral withdrawal to protect the watershed of the Boundary waters. The threat to the ecosystem from sulfide-ore copper mining far outweighs the capitalistic benefits few would reap.

The boundary waters is a lush sanctuary for a wide variety of creatures and unique features. A large amount of Americans, in and out of Minnesota, visit this wildlife sanctuary as a place of respite and beauty. Despite the influx of travellers, the Boundary Waters have remained intact due to the respect a vast amount of people have for the natural features and wildlife. Sulfide-ore copper mining, even with the utmost care to the surrounding area, would be toxic for the ecosystem and cause pollution that marrs the natural landscape permanently and would, over time, slowly eat away at one of the few natural resources left for the American people to enjoy. For companies to disturb the natural landscape for their own capitalistic ventures would be to ignore the will of the American people and to prioritize the greed of the few that benefit, at the permanent detriment to the landscape and the people.

During environmental review of the proposed withdrawal, please be sure to thoroughly address the following:

· Cleanest water quality in North America - The lakes, rivers, and streams of the Boundary Waters watershed are among the cleanest waters in North America and are especially sensitive to acids and heavy-metals found in copper mine pollution;

·America's most visited & accessible wilderness destination - The Boundary Waters is the most popular Wilderness Area in the U.S., and the largest east of the Rockies and north of the Everglades. Visitors travel through it by boat or canoe, and can choose routes to avoid having to carry their gear, making the Boundary Waters more accessible to families, children, and people with physical limitations; and

· Economics - The Boundary Waters supports a strong, sustainable, growing outdoor recreation industry in Minnesota. It is a principal driver of the $850 million, 17,000-job recreation economy in Northeastern Minnesota, it contributes to hundreds of manufacturing jobs, and it helps keep and attract talent to Minnesota.

I urge the BLM to withdraw the 225,378 acres of national forest lands to protect the Boundary Waters from sulfide-ore copper mining pollution. It's not a matter of "if" it pollutes the irreplaceable ecosystem, but "when." Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,
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