From:	Mary Stasson
To:	Lands, BLM_ES
Cc:	Mary Stasson; JAMES STASSON; Melanie Henderson; Mark Gjerde; Pat
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Withdraw 225,378 acres of land from new mineral leasing in the Rainy River Watershed near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) for 20 years.
Date:	Saturday, December 18, 2021 10:26:17 AM

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I impore you to protect our Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Rainy River Watershed area for future generations. The 1.1-million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is an incredible, special, and vulnerable national treasure. This wilderness protects a priceless reserve of water so clean that you can drink directly from the lakes. Water is the world's most critical natural resource, and it must be protected not only for today, but for future generations. The BWCAW is also a place of stillness and quiet that is unmatched anywhere else in the nation, and as the most-visited federal wilderness area in the country, it provides a refuge and source of adventure for millions of people each year. We have enjoyed trips to the BWCA whenever the opportunity arises. I can think of no other place one could go to be completely immersed in nature, with complete diversity of species living in their pristine environment, untouched, and unpolluted, from humans. There is something innately comforting in knowing that we are protecting this beautiful environmental jewel we have been given.

This bill establishes permanent federal protections where the water-rich Superior National Forest flows into the fragile ecosystem of the BWCAW, to ensure it is never polluted and poisoned from sulfide-ore copper mining. Once damaged, it would be damaged forever. Some places are simply too precious to mine. The risk is to open this area to mining and mineral exploration is simply too great of a gamble. History proves the destruction of our natural environment once the doors are opened to these activities. Please do not let greed and the temporary benefit to some to destroy what is clearly one of the most pristine and critically diverse areas in the world. We simply cannot jeopardize this area.

Thank you for reading our letter and for protecting one of the most beautiful and critically important places on earth.

For future generations,

Jim and Mary Stasson

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