From: shadow3695@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Heather Kester
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 2:38:36 PM

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Dear Deputy State Director of Geospatial Services F. David Radford,

I strongly support a 20-year ban on copper mining in the Boundary Waters watershed.

A 2016 study by the U.S. Forest Service concluded that the proposed Twin Metals copper-mine project presented an “unacceptable risk of irreparable harm” to the Boundary Waters, and federal leases for the project were terminated.

But the Trump administration revived the leases and stopped federal environmental review of the 20-year mining ban in the watershed. Since then Twin Metals’ changes to the project have greatly increased the risks of its proposed mine to this extraordinary natural area.

Mining companies always promise to protect the environment and almost never deliver. A recent study of copper mines compared what mining companies and regulators predicted with what they actually delivered. In nearly every case, there were significant water-quality violations. We can't rely on hollow promises from an international mining company to protect these precious waters.

The Boundary Waters' system of interconnected lakes includes 1,200 miles of canoe routes and provides 20% of the freshwater in the entire national forest system. It’s critically important habitat for wildlife like moose, wolves and threatened Canada lynx. The pristine waters, wildlife habitat and world-class recreation provided by the Boundary Waters far outweigh the fleeting economic benefits of industrial copper mining.

Sulfide-ore copper mining is one of the most toxic industries in the United States and doesn’t belong anywhere near this wilderness. I urge the Bureau of Land Management to take action to prevent it.

Sincerely,
Heather Kester
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