From: es11202016@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Shawn Dunn
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 3:01:03 AM

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Dear State Director of Geospatial Services F. David Radford,

Dear Mr. Radford & Bureau of Land Management,

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.

The Boundary Waters is America's most popular and water-rich Wilderness Area. Its 1.1 million acres contain more than 1,000 pristine lakes and 1,200 miles of river and stream, offering unmatched fishing, hunting, and other public lands wilderness recreational opportunities for all Americans to enjoy.

If the Boundary Waters area were to go unprotected, it would set a precedent for other companies to ruin such beautiful and magnificent areas of this country. I do speak on my behalf for the preservation of the past remaining bits of true American beauty. There is little light pollution, little to no water pollution, and a safe haven for the flora and fauna of the Boundary Waters. The idea of trading off a significant portion of innocent, bountiful land, of which that can ensure a safe and protected future for people and preservation alike, for money and pollution seems as if America is being sold out for nothing. The risk of ruining the ecosystem and environment around the Boundary Waters is too much of a low reward to commit to. Priceless and irreplaceable, the Boundary Waters must not be put at risk of perpetual pollution from the most toxic industry in America.

I would very much love to see my nation balance the areas between people and wilderness with ease, so that my children, grandchildren, and many generations after me can look upon the nation’s beauty as I once did, teeming with life and wonder to the human eye.

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 the threat of endless sulfide-ore copper mining pollution. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Shawn Dunn
Cheswick, PA 15024
es11202016@gmail.com