From:	hughes.sarah14@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sarah Hughes
To:	Lands, BLM_ES
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Date:	Saturday, December 18, 2021 12:26:59 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 have traveled to the boundary waters multiple times in my life and they were som e of the most beautiful and meaningful trips I have ever been on! I connected with some of my now best friends on a trip, I have bonded with family, and I have found personal strength I didn't know I had! The BWCA is too important to allow it to be ruined by mining! The tourism and outfitting industries in the communities surrounding the BWCA would be damaged irreparably by damaging these waters! For the sake of the land and the people who love it, please, please protect our waters!

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,
Sarah Hughes
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