From: wkw3mb@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Charlotte Miller
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 1:20:47 AM

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Dear State Director of Geospatial Services F. David Radford,

Dear Bureau of Land Management,

I strongly support the proposed mineral withdrawal to protect the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness ("Boundary Waters"). Allowing sulfide-ore copper mining in the watershed will cause irreparable damage and loss to the local environment as well as American citizens.

In two hundred years, any mine built there will probably be an irrelevant, derelict relict with a legacy of environmental damage and a few hundred jobs that offered mediocre wages and mediocre worker treatment. However, by protecting the Boundary Waters, generations to come will benefit from the beauty and untainted wilderness the land has to offer. It's 2021; it's past time to acknowledge that far more citizens have a stake in and benefit from the preservation of some of the last havens of nature than in the profit churned by a mine and the slivers of it that made it to a wider population.

While I appreciate the commitment the government has shown to worshipping the economy, the sincerely held belief of most Americans tends to acknowledge some things as more important than generating money or appeasing mining companies. The Boundary Waters is the most popular Wilderness Area in the United States and is treasured by its many visitors in a way that can't be replaced with a mine, even one that comes with a small economic boost, acidic water, and light pollution.

Hopefully this is an exercise in satirical comedy, in which case I would applaud the idea of considering placing one of the literal most toxic industries on the border of one of our largest protected areas. May I suggest next time promoting the plan with a cartoon villain, perhaps with a curly mustache?

In the interest of retaining your attention, I would like to remind you that tourism is key to Minnesota's economy. I recognize that there is more political value in the support of the mining industry than in protecting nature, but I would argue that serving the nation's best interests is actually a duty of the government and more important than any election.

If someone has actually read this far into my letter, I want to genuinely thank you for taking time to listen to my concerns. I have the highest opinion of the Bureau of Land Management (or at least the people who work there) and I believe that, removing politics, the Bureau shares my desire to find the best solution.

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,
Charlotte Miller
Roanoke, VA 24018
wkw3mb@virginia.edu