From: classicchevrolet63@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jake Bourquein
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 12:56:07 PM

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Dear Bureau of Land Management Lands Mineral Withdrawal Comment,

I and Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters (SFBW) support the reinstatement and completion of the proposed United States Forest Service led mineral withdrawal process upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in the Superior National Forest (SNF). A scientific study, with complete transparency, opportunities for public comment, and thorough interagency review is the best path forward toward conservation of the Boundary Waters for future generations of outdoor enthusiasts.

The mineral withdrawal process allows for consideration of a 20-year ban on development of sulfide-ore copper mining leases on federal public lands in the watershed of the BWCAW. This process, and efforts to protect the area permanently are supported overwhelmingly by the hunting and fishing community across the country, and allows federal agencies to gather extensive ecological and economic data, as well as public comment, allowing for a thorough watershed level evaluation of the effects sulfide-ore copper mining would have on the BWCAW.

Unlike Minnesota's iron and taconite mines, regionally untested sulfide-ore copper mining threatens fish, wildlife, water quality, and world-class camping, paddling, fishing, and hunting opportunities in one of our country's prized areas. The Boundary Waters is America's most-visited Wilderness Area, and similar mineral withdrawal studies in the watershed of Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Canyon have been conducted to evaluate the feasibility of projects near some of America's most-valued public lands and waters.

I and Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters also encourage your consideration and support of H.R. 2794, the Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act. This bill would permanently withdraw federal sulfide-ore mineral leases in the 225,378 acres encompassed by the reinstated mineral withdrawal study from development.

Public lands and waters belong to all Americans, and we must protect those lands and waters to ensure that our future generations may experience them as we have. Our priceless backcountry spaces, like the Boundary Waters, are no exception.

Sincerely,
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