From: andrianojason8@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jason Andriano
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 2:49:27 PM

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Dear State Director of Geospatial Services F. David Radford,

Dear Mr. Radford,

I have read, and agree with, the prewritten message starting with "I strongly support..." and because of this, I am choosing to include it in my message, while prefacing it with my own thoughts on the boundary waters.

I have had the pleasure of camping and canoeing in the Boundary Waters twice through my local Boy Scouts of America troop. These trips taught me many things, from wilderness survival to the deep connection that humans share with nature. This area is a national treasure that MUST be preserved for future generations to explore and be inspired by. We have a duty to our future Americans to leave the land better than we found it, and allowing mining to take place so close to this natural wonderland would surely do the opposite. Tears have been welling as I've wrote this message because I am continuously saddened to see how we are leaving our country, and world for that matter, for the next generation. Without our country's natural beauty I fear that future Americans will cease to embody the spirit of opportunity and unity that so many believe in and fight for, even in these tumultuous times.

So please, Mr Radford and those at the Bureau of Land Management, see this 20 year ban on copper mining in the watershed of the Boundary Waters through.

Yours truly,
--
Jason Andriano - Eagle Scout

Start Prewritten Message

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. Priceless and irreplaceable, the Boundary Waters must not be put at risk of perpetual pollution from the most toxic industry in America.

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,
Jason Andriano
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