From: jessi.weaver@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jesse Weaver
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 9:17:55 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.

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.

The above statement was written by someone else, beautifully with all of the most important facts, and I 100% agree with everything written above. But I would also like to add my own quick statement. I have lived here in Minnesota almost my entire life. I was born and raised here. My first ever camping trip was up in the Boundary Waters. My first time ever seeing the sky with truly no light pollution. My first experience ever seeing truly pure nature was there in the Boundary Waters. This place needs to be protected for generations to come so that others may experience this. If we continue to slowly but surely eliminate all of the pure places in our country. We will simply become a disgusting money-grubbing cesspool. There will be no purpose to continue living here in Minnesota. We Minnesotans are so proud of our state because of what a beautiful natural retreat it is. I have traveled all over our country and there is no place like this state. Our water and are forests are what make this place so unique. And if we destroy the places that give us our identity, people will leave. To put the Boundary Waters area in danger is both financially/economically, as well as morally wrong. As a lifelong citizen of Minnesota, I strongly support the mineral withdrawal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jesse Weaver
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