From: hpeery17@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Hayden Peery
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 2:09:40 PM

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Dear State Director of Geospatial Services F. David Radford,

Please take the time to read this

Bureau of Land Management,

I have a strong personal connection to the Boundary Waters. When I was little, my dad and I would go up to the Boundary Waters. It was our first trip together, and every trip since has been just as amazing, refreshing, and special as the first. It’s where I caught my first fish, saw my first bald eagle, drank my first lake water (without getting sick), and canoed for the first time. It’s where I first truly looked up at the stars in the night sky and took in their glory, something that has helped me through extremely difficult situations in my life like loss of loved ones. The Boundary waters are one of the last places in the U.S. where you can experience the real rawness of the natural world with no outside influence or pollution (light or water pollution). It is not only a national treasure, but is a symbol of Minnesota. It is something that makes me proud to be from my home state. Something that no other state truly has quite like Minnesota. It must be protected at all costs. Anything close to threatening the protection of this land is inexcusable. It is priceless, and any breach of the protection of the Boundary Waters will do untold damage to not only the waters and land but to the hearts of all Minnesotans as well as countless other Americans. I want to be able to take my children there one day. For them to be able to taste the crispness of the water from the middle of a crystal clear lake. For them to be able to see the stars in all their beauty, untouched and untainted by light pollution. Please protect this land from even the slightest attempt to reap it, as it is not only the past and current hearts of the peoples at stake, but the future’s as well.

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,
Hayden Peery
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