From: zigzagwriter@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Amanda Windsor
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 10:48:52 AM

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Dear State Director of Geospatial Services F. David Radford,

Hello,

I hope that this email finds you and others within the Bureau of Land Management well. I am reaching out as a concerned U.S. citizen who adores nature and strongly believes that we must protect what little unspoiled resources we have left for future generations.

I am someone who strongly supports the proposed mineral withdrawal to protect the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness ("Boundary Waters"). I see the threats posed by sulfide-ore copper mining as being absolutely unjustifiable in the watershed of such a sensitive and important area, especially as someone who has visited there many times and wishes to return to the area again in the future.

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.

The American people don’t want mines that will destroy what makes our country beautiful, we want our natural resources protected.

I ask that in the time of the environmental review of the proposed withdrawal, that you please thoroughly discuss and take into consideration the following points surrounding this issue:

· 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 so much for providing this platform, the opportunity to comment, and for your time in taking my thoughts to heart. I hope to see this issue resolved in favor of what truly matters here and that there will be future limitation on federal mineral leases to come.

Sincerely,

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