From: James DeLong
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application Comment
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 11:14:24 AM

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Dear F. David Radford,

I strongly support the application by the United States Forest Service (USFS) for the 20-year withdrawal of all mineral and geothermal leases on approximately 225,378 acres of National Forest System lands in the Rainy River Watershed in the Superior National Forest.

Because the Rainy River watershed is home to America's most visited Wilderness Area, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), this land deserves to be managed according to strict scientific standards and to be protected by strong environmental protections.

As the U.S. Forest Service noted, "Failure of required mitigation measures, containment facilities, or remediation efforts at mine sites and their related facilities could lead to irreversible degradation of this key water-based wilderness resource."

The science shows that copper-sulfide mining is a grave threat to the water-rich environment of northeastern Minnesota. We must not risk this national treasure for the short-term financial gain of the international mining industry.

Sincerely,
James DeLong
1807 E 51st St
Minneapolis, MN 55417