From: larmstrong@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Luke Armstrong
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 10:21:04 AM

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Dear State Director of Geospatial Services F. David Radford,

Dear Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"),

I very 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 are personally important to me, as well as countless Americans as a unique example of the American wilderness, and an increasingly rare one at that. It represents further, a shared commitment to the preservation of such spaces with the Canadians immediately to the north, an example to all visiting that we can and should collaborate with our neighbors on our common interests, even ones as simple as preserving the world we have been born into. We should not endanger such spaces with the guaranteed risk of poisoning and polluting a delicate, elaborate, and irreplaceable wilderness that mining inevitably produces.

I cannot stress enough how unique an experience it is to canoe through the BWCA, something I wish to share with my children and wish I could share with more people beyond. Mining in the BWCA would be practically guaranteed to irreversibly damage and eventually permanently cripple or outright kill that wilderness.

It must be opposed. While copper is an essential metal to modern society, we can surely find other sources that don't require destroying our nation's delicate and irreplaceable treasures.

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,
Luke Armstrong

3310 E Paris Way Appleton, WI 54913-8316
larmstrong@gmail.com