From:	Annesia Malone
To:	Lands, BLM_ES
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application: Please Protect the Boundary Waters from Toxic Mines
Date:	Saturday, December 18, 2021 12:33:01 PM

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I support the process for a study and a 20-year ban on development of sulfide-ore copper mining leases on federal public lands within the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Watershed. This process allows federal agencies to gather extensive ecological and economic data, as well as public comment, allowing for a thorough watershed level evaluation of the effects sulfide-ore copper mining would have on the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and its watershed.

Unlike Minnesota's iron and taconite mines, regionally untested sulfide-ore copper mining threatens fish, wildlife and water quality. The Boundary Waters is America's most-visited Wilderness Area, and similar studies in the watershed of Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Canyon have been conducted to evaluate the feasibility of projects near some of America's most-valued public lands and waters.

Public lands and waters belong to all Americans, and we must protect those lands and waters to ensure that future generations may experience them as we have. Our priceless backcountry spaces, like the Boundary Waters, are no exception. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Annesia Malone