From: rosie171717@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Rosie DeVito
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 9:45:17 AM

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Dear State Director of Geospatial Services F. David Radford,

Dear Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"),

As we continue to face a climate emergency that only gets worse, our government needs to take a moment to think about the poor and middle class people that live in this country. The continued destruction of our natural systems for economic gain only degrades water sources, habitats, and clean air for those who live around that area, but the pollution spreads and reaches way further than just locally because of how connected wetland and water systems are to each other. The destruction of habitat like this is an irreversible change, because even creating wetlands or rebuilding habitats like this do not produce the same productivity, species biodiversity, and ecosystem services they once did. There are countless scientific studies that reflect this.

I strongly support the proposed mineral withdrawal to protect the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The threats to this system that are posed by pre mining are unjustifiable. Rich people do not need to get richer. The environment does NOT need to continue to be degraded for economic gain. If lobbyists are looking for a quick buck on power, find other options- solar or wind for example. These options are not great for our ecosystems, but if something must be done for greed, then let it at least be a milder blow to the poor wildlife and people who live there.

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,
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