From: sydhoward95@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sydney Howard
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 6:39:56 PM

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Dear State Director of Geospatial Services F. David Radford,

Dear Bureau of Land Management,

I fully back the mineral withdrawal proposal to protect the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The threats of sulfide-ore copper mining are too great to ever be allowed in the watershed of such a sensitive environment.

The Boundary Waters are the most popular and water-rich Wilderness Area in America. 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 every American to enjoy. The Boundary Waters are a priceless resource that simply cannot be put at risk of irreparable pollution.

During the environmental review of the proposed withdrawal, please be sure to thoroughly address the following concerns:

· Cleanest water quality in North America - The lakes, rivers, and streams of the Boundary Waters watershed are some of the cleanest waters in all of North America and they're especially sensitive to acids and the 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.. 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;

· Economics - The Boundary Waters supports a strong, sustainable, growing outdoor recreation industry in Minnesota. It's a principal driver of the $850 million, 17,000-job recreation economy in Northeastern Minnesota and contributes to hundreds of manufacturing jobs.

I urge the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw the 225,378 acres of national forest lands to protect the Boundary Waters! Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Sydney Howard
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