From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of t_frank8669@hotmail.com
To: Lands, BLM_ES
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application FR Document: 2021-2295
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021 2:09:26 PM

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Dear BLM Eastern States:

As a supporter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, the voice for our wild public lands, waters and wildlife, I strongly encourage the reinstatement and completion of the proposed United States Forest Service led mineral withdrawal process upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in the Superior National Forest (SNF). A scientific study, with complete transparency, opportunities for public comment, and thorough interagency review is the best path forward toward conservation of the Boundary Waters for future generations of outdoor enthusiasts.

The mineral withdrawal process allows for consideration of a 20-year moratorium for sulfide-ore copper mining leases on federal public lands in the watershed of the BWCAW. This process and efforts to protect the area permanently are supported overwhelmingly by the hunting and fishing community across the country and 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 mining activities would have on the BWCAW.

Unlike Minnesota's iron and taconite mines, regionally untested sulfide-ore copper mining threatens fish, wildlife, water quality, and world-class camping, paddling, fishing, and hunting opportunities in a vast area known for its pristine water quality and remote character. The Boundary Waters is America's most-visited Wilderness Area and similar mineral withdrawal studies have helped establish policies to protect the health of watersheds in other treasured places like Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Canyon.

Our public lands and waters belong to all Americans and we have a collective obligation to the stewardship of our wildest places to ensure that future generations may experience them as we have. The Boundary Waters are no exception.

Sincerely,

Tyler Frank
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