

Lisa McKhann
2109 Minnesota Ave
Duluth, MN 55802

F. David Radford
Deputy State Director of Geospatial Services
BLM Eastern States Office
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041

December 22, 2021

Dear Mr. Radford:

I am writing in support of a 20-year moratorium on new mineral leasing near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northern Minnesota. Having paddled, swam in and drank the pristine waters of that wilderness for the past 50 years, I know well the preciousness of the resource. People from around the world explore the lakes and portages there, for good reason. It is a needed retreat into silence and healthy adventure for families and groups of all kinds.

The copper-nickel mining currently being pursued and explored in the area puts this wilderness treasure at huge risk. A 20-year moratorium would give those who propose this kind of mining time to prove they can do it safely. So far they have not. It also gives us time to help the "Iron Range" look to other economic development and job growth initiatives, ones that would enhance its valuable tourism industry, not threaten it.

Thank you for moving toward a 20-year moratorium on mineral leases near the BWCA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa McKhann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. A horizontal line extends from the end of the signature to the right.

Lisa McKhann