

Mr. Radford,

I support the proposed withdrawal of mineral and geothermal leasing in the Rainey River Water shed, particularly the proposed Twin Metals Copper Sulfite mine.

My first trip to the Boundary water was as a youth growing up in Grand Forks North Dakota. It was life changing trip for me as I didn't know such beautiful wilderness areas existed. I now live in Oregon with awesome ocean coast and mountains. I have taken trips to the Boundary Waters on a regular basis since living in Oregon including taking six Oregon Scout groups on week long trips. Many of those youth at the end of their scout careers have said their Boundary Water trip was their highlight of their scouting career. Why would youth from a place as beautiful as Oregon want to travel so far to visit the BW...because of its UNIQUINESS!

I often tell people that there are a dozen states that have beautiful mountains and ocean coast lines, but there is only ONE Boundary Waters. It is not just a treasure for Minnesota, not just the United States; it is a treasure for the World. There is no other place like it anywhere. It is small, unique in the world, and must be protected.

The only way to keep long term jobs in Minnesota is to protect the BW. In a hundred years or more, those who advocate for mining will long be retired and mining jobs will be gone, but the toxic pollution from the mine WILL leak and will have leached into the water ways, forever changing the ecosystem.

No one would consider putting a geothermal power plant in Yellowstone or a hard rock mine in Yosemite Valley. The BW must also be protected.

Phil Ermer
4440 NW Crocus Place
Corvallis
OR 97330

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