

December 10, 2021

To: F. David Radford

Re: Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
Health of our Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

Due to the low grade character of the rock formation, less than 1% of the ore would be produced as copper, nickel and trace metals, with waste rock comprising the remaining 99%. Since the amount of sulfur containing waste rock would be so enormous, the impact to the environment would be significant and long-term.

Although mining companies claim that they can "mitigate" such problems, **THERE IS CURRENTLY NO SULFIDE MINE IN EXISTENCE THAT IS NOT POLLUTING THE GROUND WATER.** Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) and toxic heavy metal release can **LAST FOR CENTURIES**; adversely affect fish and other aquatic life, wildlife dependent on those aquatic lives as food sources, and the quality of watersheds and drinking water. Sulfates (from sulfur) also leach into the environment and become part of a bio-chemical process that converts mercury into methyl mercury, which bio-accumulates in the food chain resulting in fish consumption advisories. Sulfates are particularly harmful to the growth of wild rice. Thus, pollutants from sulfide mining operations could adversely affect food sources and ultimately, human health. In addition, the scope of mining such low grade ores changes the landscape forever." ~ reported by The Sierra Club

I believe the health of the BWCA and the Superior Forest is more valuable to Minnesota and the world, than this proposed sulfide mining project by Twin Metals. Choose one. The data shows we cannot have both! The BWCA is known throughout the world as one of the last vestiges of true wilderness. We need to protect it, not destroy it. Jobs preserving our natural lands, and jobs in our tourist industry are more sustainable than mining jobs.

Located at the beginning of the Great Lakes (which contain 21% of the world's supply of surface fresh water), it is our responsibility to do our part to protect this vast resource.

All National Forests belong to every citizen. Please act for us.

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