

From: **florence sandok**  
Subject: **Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application**  
Date: **January 18, 2022 at 11:37 PM**  
To: **David Radford, State Director of Geospatial Services**



Commentary to the Bureau of Land Management  
: attn: David Radford, State Director of Geospatial Services

Dear Sir:

Addressing the decision to extend the 20 year moratorium on Mining in the Superior National Forest. My answer is YES, absolutely. Do not permit Mining in the Superior National Forest.

As 25 cities in Minnesota prepare to declare a state of emergency regarding Climate Change, The protection of our water resources is a real necessity.

1. The Mining Industry's history of pollution creates too great a risk to allow in or near a water rich environment where pollution is a certainty.

2. Antofagasta, the foreign mining company promoting this project has a history of pollution and lack of responsibility. It was found guilty by the Chilean Supreme Court of harming residents, polluting the groundwater and blocked a source of water necessary for the residents of that community. (BNAmericas 10/24/14.) It also faced a potential fine of 23.8 million dollars and closure of its biggest copper mine in Chile because of violations of its permit and pollution of water. (Reuters 10/13 16) We cannot allow this multinational corporation to steal our clean water, and then leave Minnesotans with the task of pollution cleanup, a devastated economy for the region, and a n enormous taxpayer burden. The short run would be profitable for the company, but the long term results are already seen in many other communities.. and they are grim.

We need to pay attention to the inevitability of this same story playing out once again Boom and Bust.. Butte Montana being only one of many to cite. The Berkley Pit is an example in Butte which is now the centerpiece of the nations largest superfund site. More cleanup of other sites in the city have been under negotiation for a number of years (Feb, 2020. Washington Post) The headline of the article reads " A Once-powerful Montana mining town warily awaits final cleanup of its toxic past."

3 There are no new technologies in mining or guarantees of any safety, despite wishful thinking.

4. There is a bright side to this picture. An extensive Harvard Study completed in 2018 by Harvard Professor James H. Stock, PhD, former Chair of Harvards economics department, former member of the White House Council of Advisors, compared two scenarios, one with Mining as the chief economic source for the area surrounding the BWCA, the other Tourism, over a 20 year period. The conclusion was, that on the short term, there would be economic gain with mining, but the long term outlook concluded mining would " significantly underperform" and was not the best economic choice.. Tourism was cited as a sustainable economy ALREADY in place, and that over a 20 year time period, Tourism would secure 1,500 to 4,500 MORE jobs, and \$100 to \$900 million MORE income, than mining.

. The last two years, during Covid, the Harvard Study proved to be true., We went to the BWCA several times, and on one Monday afternoon, we saw that the parking lot at Tettaguiche State Park was full. Based on the last two years, we will probably reach the predictions of the Harvard studies even sooner.

I have never seen that before in the 50 years I have been visiting the North Country.. Resort owners we talked to stated it was the best year ever for their businesses.

This bears out the Harvard Study. Tourism is alive and well, and offers the best Environmental and Economic solution for the BWCA.

Please enforce the Moratorium. It is the best solution. And the majority of Minnesotans agree.

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*Florence Sandok, January 18, 2022*

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