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**Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application**

1 message

jense002 University of Minnesota &lt;jense002@umn.edu&gt;

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To: blm\_es\_inquiries@blm.gov, jense002 University of Minnesota &lt;jense002@umn.edu&gt;, jense002 &lt;jense002@comcast.net&gt;

Dear Sirs and Madams,

*Dear Mr. Radford,*

Non-ferrous mining is a threat to water quality in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA) and to the flowage through the Quetico to the north. It also poses a serious potential to spoil the Saint Louis River, which flows south to Lake Superior. Water has become an ever more important resource in this era of drought and is needed for sustaining life in Minnesota and this country as a whole.

The record of mining companies on containing the waste from their processing of the ore is very poor. They have not demonstrated that their plans will work, rather the opposite, with examples such as Sudbury, Ontario where nickel mining left a barren landscape. The astronauts were using this to practice the use of "moon buggies" in this sterile waste. I visited this area on my way to EXPO 67. I also saw the result of mining in Butte, Montana with acid pools, and copper mining in Colorado when I served in The United States Air Force in the early 1970s. Reserve Mining, in Silver Bay Minnesota, was dumping taconite tailings in Lake Superior until court-ordered to stop in the late 1970s. Their publicist declared that the cloudy water that we could see from our cabin, 5 miles south of the plant, was due to cloud formations. He said it was "the so-called green water effect". Local herring fishermen said that the fish would not be in those areas of pollution.

My point is that the burden of proof is on the companies who are willing to risk the long-term destruction of huge amounts of water. They must prove that their containment of waste is effective over decades. They have not done so. Lake Superior has a trillion gallons of water, which is clear, cold, and priceless. According to park signs, the water is enough to cover North America and South America with several feet of water. The BWCA is an unusual wilderness environment that draws visitors from around the world and deserves to have protection from the federal government.

The arguments from the companies are that we must have nickel and copper for the new technologies. When the risks of very long-term pollution of water resources are weighed against the commercial gains of companies, life has to be considered in the equation. When water is polluted with the byproducts of nonferrous mining, it will not be available for human consumption, not without considerable treatment, which to my understanding does not yet exist.

Please protect the citizens of Minnesota and this country against the short-term profit of foreign-owned mining companies and probable pollution of unique assets that have, so far, been unspoiled.

Sincerely Yours,  
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