

145 Wheeler South
Saint Paul, MN 55105
4 November, 2021

F. David Radford,
Deputy State Director of Geospatial Services
BLM Eastern States Office
RE: Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA. 22041

Dear Director Radford:

I write in support of the proposal to ban mining on federal lands adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

The BWCA is a precious and irreplaceable true wonder of the world. It is sacred land, not only for Minnesota's First Nations, but also for many fortunate others across the globe who have had the chance to see it first-hand. We would like this wilderness area to be protected so that our children and grandchildren may take spiritual strength from it in years to come.

We know what non-ferrous mining does: it releases sulfides and other poisons toxic to plants, aquatic and terrestrial life. The fresh water lake systems of northern Minnesota are all interconnected. The systems are fragile. And once polluted, the fresh waters of northern Minnesota will be poisoned, not just for decades, but for centuries. (The ancient Greek mines of Thrace and the ancient Roman mines of Spain are leaking toxins to this day).

The short-term gain of temporary lower-paid salaries for miners – mining is now mostly done by machine and the high-paying jobs will go to foreigners and out of state administrators – is hardly worth the forever loss of the Boundary Waters.

I urge you to place a ban on non-ferrous mining near this internationally known and valued natural resource.

Yours sincerely,

Henry S. Jerome

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