

Angela K. Campbell
P. O. Box 1
Ely, MN 55731

January 18, 2022

Deb Haaland, Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street N. W.
Washington, D C 20240

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BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
EASTERN STATES OFFICE

2022 JAN 26 A 9:21

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

Dear Secretary Haaland & David Radford:

My name is Angela Campbell. I am here to express my strong opposition to the withdrawal of 225,000 acres of Forest Service lands in the Rainy River Watershed and the imposition of a moratorium on mining activity for 20 years.

I serve on the Ely City Council, and chair the Ely Housing and Redevelopment Authority. During the 30 years I have lived in Ely, I have seen Ely's economy and population drastically decline. This, despite the fact that the BWCAW has been the benefactor of a great deal of federal and state legislation to ensure that the tourist industry suffers no harm from mining operations.

Consider these facts.

Mining was banned in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness by the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The 1978 BWCAW Act created an additional mining ban in the 220,000 acre "Mining Protection Area" to create a buffer around the BWCAW area.

In 1976, Minnesota adopted a Statute prohibiting all mining within the BWCAW while expressly allowing ongoing mineral exploration and development outside of the protected areas. The Superior National Forest Plan identifies mining as a permitted activity in the area of Twin Metals' proposed mining project.

Since 1967, Minnesota state leases for nonferrous minerals have required that lessees meet all state and federal regulations on federal and state surface land, receive approval from Minnesota for surface use, notify surface owners, and retain responsibility for damages.

In 1973, Minnesota passed the Environmental Policy Act that require the review of proposed mining projects.

In 1980, Minnesota enacted a law to regulate drillers of exploratory borings.

In 1981 Minnesota adopted rules regulating iron mining and nonferrous mining. The nonferrous mining rules extended the mining ban beyond the BWCAW to include a Corridor one quarter mile wide around the BWCAW.

In 1993 Minnesota passed a law that requires mining companies to provide financial assurance regarding their mining operations for nonferrous mines.

With legislation and regulations enacted by the federal government and Minnesota in past years, all of the steps necessary to protect the BWCAW have been taken.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Campbell". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Angela K. Campbell