

2670 - 14th Street NW
New Brighton, MN 55112
9 January 2022

F. David Radford
Deputy State Director of Geospatial Services
BLM Eastern States Office
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
EASTERN STATES OFFICE
2022 JAN 19 P 2:25

Dear Mr. Radford,


I am adamantly opposed to any mining being permitted within the watershed area affecting the BWCAW. This is such an asset to the state of Minnesota and the nation that it is unconscionable to put it at risk. If mining is allowed, it is inevitable that human greed and negligence will end in its destruction.

It is unfortunate that those who wish to preserve the best of nature must continue to play a game of whack-a-mole with those who have no conscience when it comes to the almighty dollar. The creation of the BWCAW was a crowning achievement of those who see the value of preserving our nation's natural wonders. It is a sad reality that safeguarding our natural resources is never really achieved. It must constantly be defended because it doesn't matter to big business that a particular effort fails to impose its will of subjecting preservations of nature to development. They just go ahead with another approach and try again, and then again, and again until they finally succeed. In the end, they only have to win one battle to get what they want while we have to win every battle or our precious resource is lost forever. It's not like we can win the next battle and get all or even some of it back. It's gone forever.

All you need to do is look at the history of business and human nature to realize that if mining is allowed within the BWCAW watershed it will eventually lead to its destruction. It is not enough that technology may exist to minimize a catastrophe or that protocols can be put in place to protect environmental interests, or that a company may have great financial resources to support its efforts. The problem is that human nature guarantees that business management will circumvent these safeguards to save a few dollars with disastrous results. Case in point - BP and its Deepwater Horizon blowout. Even worse is that Antofagasta/Twin Metals and its technology have already demonstrated with disasters elsewhere that its mining activity will decimate the BWCAW.

I can see the handwriting on the wall by the arrogance of Antofagasta/Twin Metals as it is moving ahead with its plans for opening its underground copper-nickel mine without waiting for the outcome of the current challenges they face. They expect to eventually prevail, as business always seems to do. We need to create a permanent status for areas like our national parks and the BWCAW that permanently prevents activities that cause their degradation due to commercial development.

Sincerely,


Maurice Wolf