

December 3, 2021

F. David Radford

Deputy State Director of Geospatial Services

BLM Eastern States Office

5275 Leesburg Pike

Falls Church, VA 22041

Attention: Superior Natural Forest Withdrawal Application

Dear Sir,

I value and enjoy the natural resources of Minnesota and particularly the land, water, and vegetation in northern and central Minnesota. I live in Minneapolis but I most enjoy my summers in my cabin in Crow Wing County, a cabin I built myself more than fifty years ago. The water, woods and sky at that location match the environs of the area I understand to be the subject of a proposed copper-nickel mining operation a few miles further north.

I understand your office is now seeking comment on whether federal authorities should start a study and initiate a process that could result in a 20-year mining moratorium on 225,387 acres of federal forest land near the BWCA. I oppose such an undertaking. I think the Minnesota DNR's existing nonferrous mine siting rules adequately protect the BWCA from pollution, impairment, and destruction from mining within the Rainy River Headwaters Watershed. I believe the DNR adequately protects those natural resources and I believe current technology and prudent management can conduct mining operations economically and ecologically safely. Accordingly, I urge the BLM and other governmental agencies to assist and facilitate the commencement of copper-nickel mining in those areas that have been identified as advantageous under those standards and refrain from undertaking a study that would impose a moratorium on mining.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Steve Peterson

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