

37 Upton Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55405-1943
1 November, 2021

In re: Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application

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

Dear Director Radford:

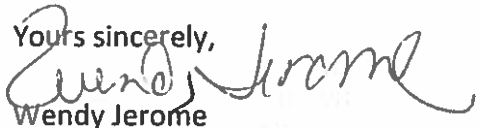
I write in support of the proposal to ban mining on federal lands adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area is valued by the international community. Those who have visited count themselves lucky. Those who have seen only photographs of this precious and fragile wilderness find hope in its scenes of primeval beauty. And those for whom these waters are sacred homeland, the First Nations peoples of Minnesota, are owed the promises of treaties. Their fishing and wild ricing should not be endangered. These pristine lands must be preserved for everyone's children and grandchildren.

Copper and nickel mining releases sulfides and other toxins into water. The waters of the Rainy River watershed are connected; the land is porous. No technology to date has prevented mine leakage. We can count on sulfide-ore mining in northern Minnesota eventually destroying life forms throughout the watershed. No mine has ever been found not to leak its poisons into water systems.

Mining is a short-term project, hardly enriching local community, particularly today when most labor is accomplished by large, expensive machinery. It brings profit to a few share-holders and corporation directors. It would destroy lifeways and the \$100 million per year recreation economy of northern Minnesota.

Please ban on non-ferrous mining near this internationally known and valued natural resource.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Jerome