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Title:

Comments: My comments regarding the twenty-year mining moratorium envisioned for Twin Metals in the Superior National Forest

I am writing today to urge the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to not allow mineral extraction near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), but also to consider a much more all-inclusive protection of this one-of-a-kind jewel that we as Minnesotans are so lucky to have in our State.

Twenty years ago, when I was nine months pregnant, my husband and I joined our fellow BWCAW enthusiasts to protest the motorization of the BWCAW. Our efforts paid off in this battle and, eighteen months later, we took our very young son on his first trip into the BWCAW. The BWCAW was also the location of our wedding years earlier, and has been an important part of our lives and the lives of many other people from Minnesota, the United States, and beyond. This wilderness is a one-of-a-kind place that we need to permanently protect for our own and future generations, and for the wildlife and plants that call it home. The threats that face this beautiful place today could not be imagined twenty years ago by the people who spent long hours protesting against motorization in front of politicians' offices, local media studios, and the State Capitol. I worry that these threats will continue to materialize and eventually one of these will proceed, and will permanently damage this important place. Only then will we realize what we had. Only then, it will be too late.

The arguments for mining are both short-sighted (20 years of mining vs. a life-time of damage), and wrong (approximately 2,000 temporary mining-related jobs vs. approximately 17,000 permanent jobs related to the many tourists who are drawn to this area year around, which will go away if the BWCAW is damaged).

Please say "No!" to this latest threat, and proceed with the 20-year moratorium on the extraction of any minerals within the BWCAW watershed. In addition, please consider a way to permanently protect the BWCAW. Thank you for your time.

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