

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/7/2017 3:43:53 PM

First name: Judith

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I urge the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to protect the Boundary Waters from sulfide-ore copper mining pollution.

Aug 7, 2017

Comments Eastern Superior Comments Eastern Superior

Dear Comments Eastern Superior Eastern Superior,

I strongly support the protection of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness ("Boundary Waters") through the proposed "withdrawal" of federal lands in the Rainy River Watershed from the federal mining program. The threats posed by sulfide-ore copper mining are unjustifiable in the watershed of such a sensitive and important area.

The Boundary Waters is America's most popular and water-rich Wilderness Area. Its 1.1 million acres contain more than 1,000 pristine lakes and 1,200 miles of rivers and stream, offering unmatched wilderness recreational opportunities for all Americans to enjoy. Priceless and irreplaceable, the Boundary Waters must not be put at risk of perpetual pollution from the most toxic industry in America.

During environmental review, please be sure to thoroughly address the following:

-- Cleanest water quality in North America - The lakes, rivers, and streams of the Boundary Waters watershed are among the cleanest waters in North America, and are especially sensitive to acids and heavy-metals found in copper mine pollution;

-- Economics - The Boundary Waters supports a strong, sustainable, growing outdoor recreation industry in Minnesota. It is a principal driver of the \$850 Million, 17,000-job recreation economy in northeastern Minnesota; and

-- America's most visited and accessible wilderness destination - The Boundary Waters is the most popular Wilderness Area in the U.S., and the largest east of the Rockies and north of the Everglades. Visitors travel through it by boat or canoe, making the Boundary Waters more accessible to families and nature lovers of all ages.

I urge the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to protect and "withdraw" the approximately 234,328 acres of national forest lands in the Rainy River Watershed from the federal mining program for

twenty years in order to protect the Boundary Waters from sulfide-ore copper mining pollution and damage.

Sincerely,

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