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Title: Communications Director

Comments: On behalf of Environmental Action, an education and advocacy organization dedicated to the conservation of America's treasures, I formally submit 28,232 signatures to the U.S. Forest service in strong support of protecting the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness through conducting a full and comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement. The Boundary Waters is priceless, irreplaceable and should not be put at risk of pollution from proposed sulfide-ore copper mining.

I ask that these signatures be entered into the official record and considered as individual comments. Each of the people listed in the attached spreadsheet signed this comment:

"I strongly urge you to take all actions necessary to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (Boundary Waters) and Voyageurs National Park (Voyageurs) and to prevent sulfide-ore copper mining in the headwaters of these national treasures. Sulfide-ore copper mining is inherently dangerous. Sulfide-ore copper mining in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs (Rainy River Drainage Basin) would cause permanent and significant damage to the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs. This damage is inevitable; modern technology and mining operations cannot prevent the damage. Nor can the damage be fixed without destroying the wild and natural character of the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs, the very essence of these treasures. I urge you to do the following:

1. Prepare a rigorous and comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that thoroughly studies the devastating impacts of sulfide-ore copper mining on Superior National Forest lands in the Rainy River Drainage Basin. Provide the scientific, economic, and social basis for a withdrawal of 234,328 acres of Superior National Forest lands. Document why only removal of these lands from the federal mineral leasing program would protect the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs.
2. Submit a strong recommendation to Interior Secretary Zinke asking that the Department of Interior order the removal of 234,328 acres of Superior National Forest lands from the federal mineral leasing program for 20-years, the maximum period allowed by law."

For your convenience, the petition is available online at: <http://bit.ly/2EYnhLZ>

Should you have any questions about the petition or signature file, please contact me at (202) 461-2449 x349 or by email at Sally@environmental-action.org.

Thank you,

Sally King

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