

For Immediate Release

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SAVE THE BOUNDARY WATERS

Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters Statement on Twin Metals Mine Plan Submission

Plan for toxic mining next to the Boundary Waters could lead down a dangerous path

ELY, MN-- Today Antofagasta's Twin Metals submitted its mine plan of operations for risky sulfide-ore copper mining on the doorstep of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. This submission could lead the state down a dangerous path toward permitting a mine that will forever damage the Boundary Waters Wilderness. This comes just a day after the Trump Administration [killed a Congressional proposal](#) to force completion of a critical study on the dangers of this type of mining in this location.

“This is an incredibly perilous time for the Boundary Waters,” said Save the Boundary Waters Executive Director Tom Landwehr. “The Trump Administration has corrupted the federal environmental review process and jammed the Twin Metals project into a state process that was never intended to protect pristine locations like the Boundary Waters. If elected leaders don’t act we could lose the Boundary Waters as we know it.”

A 2016 study by the US Forest Service (USFS) concluded that the Twin Metals project posed an [“unacceptable risk of irreparable harm”](#) to the Boundary Waters and the federal leases for the project were terminated. After Antofagasta's owner bought a Washington DC mansion and rented it to Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump, the Trump Administration [revived the leases](#) and [short-circuited the federal environmental review of a 20-year mining ban in the watershed of the Boundary Waters](#). Since then, Antofagasta's changes to the project have greatly increased the risk this proposed mine poses to the Boundary Waters.

Twin Metals boosters have boasted that the [state’s environmental review process won’t stop the mine](#) from being built even though [Twin Metals executives](#) will not say the Boundary Waters will be protected. Federal and state standards for pollution are designed for industrial mining areas,

not for recreational areas next to America's most popular Wilderness. The standards would lead to pollution of air and water that would flow into the Boundary Waters.

Twin Metals claims that its dry-stacking method will be safe for the environment have been [rejected](#) by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Mining companies always promise they will be protective of the environment and never deliver. In 2006 [a study of copper mines](#) compared what mining companies and regulators predicted and the actual performance. In nearly every case there were significant water quality violations.

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