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## **Statement Re: Emmer, Peterson and Lewis bill to endanger the Boundary Waters Wilderness**

Ely, MN - Today, Congressman Tom Emmer [introduced](#) an unprecedented bill that would eliminate proven environmental protections that have been in place for nearly 50 years, overturn the will of Minnesotans and allow for a foreign mining company with a [terrible history of environmental violations](#) to build dangerous sulfide-ore copper mines on the edge of the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

This bill is also being co-sponsored by Minnesota Congressmen Collin Peterson and Jason Lewis.

**Statement from Save the Boundary Waters National Campaign Chair Becky Rom:** "This bill is so far outside the mainstream it is hard to fathom any possible justification for it. This bill singles out Minnesota as being unworthy of the fundamental environmental protections afforded to the rest of the country. It ignores over 100 years of protections for the Superior National Forest and puts Minnesota's national treasure, the Boundary Waters, at risk. That Rep. Emmer would even introduce a bill like this is outrageous and unacceptable. There is no justification for it from a legal, policy or state perspective and we are extremely disappointed in his efforts to give a foreign mining conglomerate the green light to destroy America's most visited Wilderness area."

The proposed bill would undermine years of existing law by requiring congressional approval for any mineral withdrawal or National Monument designation in the Superior National Forest, and retroactively grant the renewal of two mineral leases held by Twin Metals Minnesota, a subsidiary of Chilean mining giant Antofagasta, despite these leases previously being [denied](#) due to the [extreme environmental risk](#) they posed to the Wilderness.

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The Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters is a broad coalition of more than 35 partner organizations, including conservation, sportsmen and veteran's groups. The Campaign is also supported by more than 250 local and national businesses. The Campaign is led by Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, which is based in Ely, Minnesota. For more information, visit: [SavetheBoundaryWaters.org](http://SavetheBoundaryWaters.org).