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Radical Emmer Bill Endangering the Boundary Waters Passes the House of Representatives

Twenty-two Republicans join in bipartisan opposition to extreme anti-public lands bill

Ely, MN - Today, [an unprecedented bill](#) from Minnesota Representative Tom Emmer threatening the Boundary Waters passed the U.S. House of Representatives. In a close vote (216-204), twenty-two Republicans voted against this bill, standing in opposition to Rep. Emmer's attempts to undermine Minnesota's public lands protections, and showing strong bipartisan support for protecting the Boundary Waters. The bill, H.R. 3905, will now shift to the U.S. Senate for consideration.

If passed by the Senate, H.R. 3905 would remove the protective provisions of five longstanding conservation laws and grant a foreign mining company the right to build [dangerous sulfide-ore copper mines](#) next to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and in the headwaters of Voyageurs National Park. Additionally, this bill would stop a critical environmental study on the potential risks of copper mining to the Wilderness. This study is a proven review process that has been in place for nearly 50 years.

This bill would also [override the will](#) of both Minnesotans and Americans. Minnesotans oppose copper mining near the Boundary Waters by a margin of more than two-to-one. The study is supported by [79 percent of Minnesotans](#) and over [126,000 Americans submitted](#) comments as part of the study.

Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters issued the following statement on the vote:

"The continued progress of this radical bill is deeply disturbing," said Jason Zabokrtsky, chair of Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters. **"Tom Emmer is attempting to single out Minnesota as unworthy of five bedrock conservation laws, all to ensure a foreign mining company is granted the right to build dangerous mines on the edge of Minnesota's most iconic public lands. We urge the United States Senate to join the overwhelming majority of Americans in supporting Boundary Waters protection by refusing to consider this anti-science, anti-public lands bill on the Senate floor."**

More information on the negative impacts of H.R. 3905

If allowed to become law, H.R. 3905 would:

- [Endanger](#) the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park: Minnesota's most iconic public lands.
- [Eliminate bedrock conservation laws](#) as they apply to Minnesota, including the Antiquities Act, NEPA, FLPMA, and two other laws relating to federal mining authority.
- Endanger [over 9,500 American jobs](#) that depend on a clean Boundary Waters.
- Disregard the will of 79 percent of Minnesotans who support an ongoing two-year study on the risks of copper mining in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs National Park.
- Disregard the [input of over 126,000 Americans](#) who have already participated in the study.

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Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters was formed to help gain permanent protection for the Boundary Waters. Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters is also supported by more than 280 local and national businesses. Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters is led by the Boundary Waters Trust. More information available at SportsmenfortheBoundaryWaters.org.