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## **Statement on the Department of Justice's motion to dismiss Twin Metals Lawsuit**

**Ely, MN** – Last night, the Department of Justice (DOJ) [filed a motion](#) to dismiss the Twin Metals lawsuit suing the federal government for the right to mine sulfide-ore copper on the edge of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. In December, the federal government [declined to renew](#) two mineral leases to Twin Metals, citing the risk to the Boundary Waters. At the same time the federal government announced the beginning of a process to withdraw federal minerals from the Boundary Waters watershed for up to twenty years. Recently Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue [confirmed that process would continue](#).

In response to last night's motion to dismiss, Becky Rom, National Chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, issued the following statement:

"The motion by the Department of Justice to dismiss the Twin Metals lawsuit is the right decision. The federal government is clearly within its rights to decline to renew publicly owned mineral leases on the edge of the Boundary Waters, leases that would almost certainly lead to irrevocable harm to the Wilderness. We look forward to a dismissal of this case and an end to the immediate threat posed by sulfide-ore copper mining to America's most popular wilderness."

Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, the lead organization in the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, also filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

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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 veterans 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 on the threat from sulfide-ore copper mining and the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters visit [SavetheBoundaryWaters.org](http://SavetheBoundaryWaters.org).