



## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Scott Beauchamp  
Director of Media Relations  
[scottb@savetheboundarywaters.org](mailto:scottb@savetheboundarywaters.org)  
651-788-0105

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Reps. Paulsen, McCollum Denounce Emmer/Nolan Amendment**

Ely, MN – Last night, a dangerous amendment from Representatives Tom Emmer and Rick Nolan was [added to the Federal Omnibus Bill](#). [This amendment](#) would eliminate funding for an ongoing environmental review study that is being used to determine if sulfide-ore copper mining is [too risky](#) to be allowed near the Boundary Waters Wilderness. The process used to pass this amendment is a disturbing example of backroom politics as Reps. Emmer and Nolan are using closed-door tactics to undermine an environmental review process that [Minnesotans overwhelmingly support](#).

This amendment was denounced by Wilderness supporters and elected officials on both sides of the aisle including Representatives Erik Paulsen (R-MN 03) and Betty McCollum (D-MN 04).

Congressman Paulsen spoke in sharp opposition to the amendment stating, “The public process that is underway after hundreds of thousands of people weighed in with their comments, should not be ignored and tossed aside. And, a science-based assessment of the best management practices of this sensitive ecosystem should be adhered to. We owe it to future generations to understand the impact copper-nickel mining poses to Minnesota's most precious water and land before we put it at risk.”

Congresswoman McCollum also spoke in opposition saying the amendment, “... mandates that dangerous copper-sulfide ore mining will be allowed in the watershed, regardless of the conclusions of the environmental study. And it intentionally ignores a public process that hundreds of thousands of Americans weighed in on, with comments on both sides of the issue. In my opinion, this amendment sets a horrible precedent, wastes taxpayer dollars already invested in the study, and threatens a national treasure.”

The full Omnibus Bill is expected to be voted on in December.

Follow hyperlinks for the full statements from [Representatives McCollum](#) and [Paulsen](#).

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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 265 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).