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Antofagasta's Twin Metals a Bad Deal for Northeastern Minnesota

Peer-reviewed, independent study shows that mine would harm the long-term economy of the region

ELY, MN—Today Antofagasta's Twin Metals is announcing a project labor agreement for the construction of its sulfide-ore copper mine directly outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Nothing in this announcement changes the fact that the Twin Metals mine is an economic loser for Northeastern Minnesota.

The only peer-reviewed, [independent study](#) on the economic impacts of the mine clearly show the long-term negative impacts far outweigh any short term gain. Harvard Economics Professor James Stock examined 72 different scenarios and in 69 of them there were more jobs and more income in the region over twenty years without the mine than with.

The negative impacts of the mine include the undoing of the current amenity-based economy that is a draw for both visitors and people to live in the area. Currently [nine Minnesota businesses](#) are suing the Trump Administration for unlawfully reinstating Twin Metals' leases and damaging their livelihoods.

"We all want the same thing for our community—good jobs for everyone and a sustainable lifestyle for our kids and their kids," said Steve Piragis, owner of Piragis Northwoods Company. "But building a mine right on the edge of the Boundary Waters Wilderness is not the way to achieve this. It will cost thousands of jobs and long term will set our entire region backward for decades."

The negative economic impact of building the Twin Metals mine would be felt throughout Minnesota, said Mike Cichanowski, Founder and President of Wenonah Canoe:

"We know our market, and people who are recent or regular Boundary Waters paddlers are far more likely to buy our canoes than those who have not or do not regularly visit the Boundary Waters. The drop in visitors would definitely harm my major retailers and wholesale buyers. There are other places to mine and other copper deposits in the world, but there is only one Boundary Waters."

A separate economic analysis from [Key-Log](#) shows an estimated loss of billion dollars or more in spending, personal income, and property value in the three-county Arrowhead region that would be affected by the mine, including:

- \$288 million in lost visitor spending each year that would otherwise support
 - 4,490 local jobs
 - \$76 million in residents' income
 - \$31 million in state and local taxes, and
 - \$181 million in proprietor's income and business-to-business transactions
- 5,066 to 22,791 lost jobs
- \$509 million in lost property value

In 2016 the Twin Metals project was terminated after a [thorough scientific review](#) determined the mine posed an almost certain risk of "irreparable harm" to the Wilderness, but the Trump Administration [revived the project](#) after Antofagasta's owner, Andronico Luksic, bought a DC mansion and rented it to Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump. The administration has since cancelled environmental reviews and used unlawful legal maneuvers to push the project forward.

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