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## **Congress ramps up oversight of Trump Administration's sketchy Minnesota sulfide-ore copper mining deal**

*Letter is the second requesting information on cancellation of critical study to determine the impacts of sulfide-ore copper mining on America's most popular Wilderness*

**ELY, MN**— Today the Chairs of the House Natural Resources Committee, the House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, and the House Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee [sent a joint letter](#) to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior requesting further information on the Trump Administration's 11<sup>th</sup> hour cancellation of a study to determine the impacts of copper mining on Minnesota's Boundary Waters. The letter outlines a series of highly questionable moves by the Trump Administration to ram through Chilean mining conglomerate Antofagasta's Twin Metals project, a sulfide-ore copper mine on the doorstep of America's most popular Wilderness.

"It is high time the American people got answers on what the Trump Administration is hiding," said Becky Rom, National Chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. "For over two years we've seen this Administration twist themselves into knots in order to advance this risky project without the appropriate environmental review. Hopefully now we'll start to find out why."

The mineral leases required for the project were [lawfully terminated](#) by the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 2016. They were unlawfully reinstated by the BLM in 2018 and are currently in the process of being formally renewed. A concurrent analysis of whether the watershed of the Boundary Waters is the right place for sulfide-ore copper mining was [abruptly cancelled](#) on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, despite Secretary Perdue's [promise](#) to Rep. McCollum that he would finish the study.

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