

For Immediate Release

November 22, 2019

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SAVE THE BOUNDARY WATERS

Save the Boundary Waters Comment on DNR Statement Regarding Twin Metals

ELY, MN-- Today Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters National Chair Becky Rom issued the following comment on the [DNR statement](#) saying it will move ahead with a state-only environmental impact statement (EIS) on a Twin Metals mine plan.

"It's good that Governor Walz recognizes that the Trump Administration can't be trusted to faithfully and with integrity do environmental review of a sulfide-ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters. However, state standards are insufficient to protect the Wilderness from the inevitable industrial pollution that will flow from a copper mine next to this priceless natural resource. The state process acknowledges that projects will have a significant impact on landscapes and ecosystems, and it allows for air and water pollution in significant amounts.

Because Congress is demanding completion of a canceled federal study on a mining ban and because the Twin Metals leases could be thrown out in a federal lawsuit any day now the state should not move forward.

The only way to protect Minnesota's crown jewel is to ban sulfide-ore mining in the Boundary Waters' Watershed."

5 THINGS TO KNOW

1. The Trump Administration is rigging the process to ram through mineral leases for a billionaire Chilean mining boss who is also [Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump's landlord](#).

Since assuming power in 2017 the Trump Administration has been ignoring science, facts, and the will of the people by systematically unwinding protections for the Boundary Waters at the behest of Antofagasta

2. Antofagasta has a history of environmental pollution and political corruption in its homeland. Antofagasta was [found guilty by the Chilean Supreme Court of harming residents](#) of a community when Antofagasta located its tailings dam upstream, polluting the groundwater and blocking a critical source of water on which the community depended. [They were responsible for](#)

[the highest number of toxic spills](#) in the region of Coquimbo, including one spill which dumped 13,000 liters of copper concentrate directly into a river. They faced a fine of \$23.8 million and closure of its biggest copper mine in Chile over [violations of its environmental permit, including water pollution](#).

Antofagasta has been implicated in a number of bribery and corruption scandals, including with a [high-ranking Chilean cabinet minister](#), a questionable [\\$10 million dollar loan to the daughter-in-law of the Chilean president](#), and [tax fraud](#).

3. The Trump Administration is [suppressing important scientific information](#) about the danger sulfide-ore copper mining poses to the Boundary Waters. The US Department of Agriculture [abruptly cancelled](#) a two year study on the impacts of copper mining on lands and communities near the Boundary Waters. The study would have shown the harm sulfide-ore copper mining would have done. The Trump administration has refused to make public the underlying ecological, public health, and economic reports prepared during the study. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Toxics Release Inventory](#), metal mining is the [nation's #1 toxic polluter](#), and a wide body of [rigorous scientific literature](#) shows the near inevitability of pollution flowing into and severely damaging the Boundary Waters.

4. Protecting the Boundary Waters is the smart economic choice. The BWCA is the most heavily visited wilderness area in the United States, attracting more than 155,000 visitors from all over the world and helps drive more than [\\$900 million in economic activity](#) every year and over 17,000 jobs. A [recent independent study from Harvard](#) University showed that protecting the Boundary Waters from the Twin Metals mine would result in dramatically more jobs and income over a 20-year period.

5. A vast majority of Minnesotans and Americans want the Boundary Waters protected from the threat of sulfide-ore copper mining. [Seventy percent of Minnesotans](#) oppose sulfide-ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters, and over 94% of the 125,000 public comments on the [proposed mineral withdrawal urged protection](#). Nearly 56,000 citizens submitted additional comments during a second comment period.

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