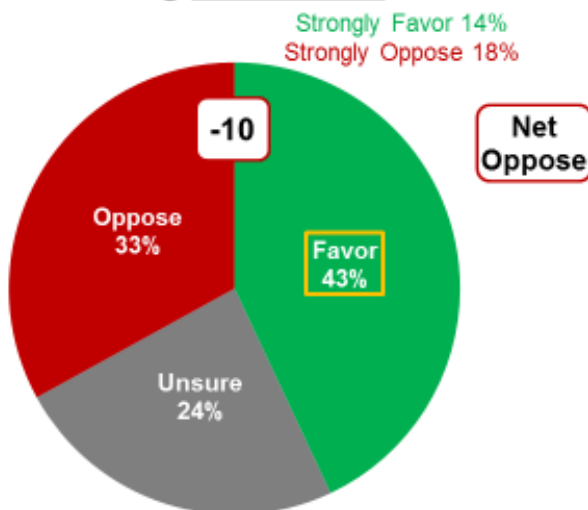


## MEMORANDUM

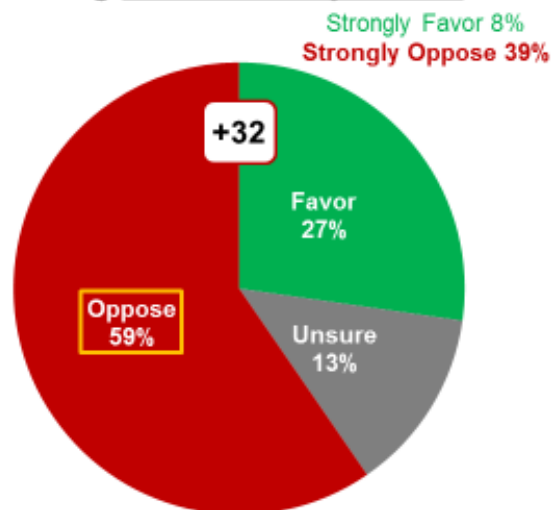
TO: INTERESTED PARTIES  
 FROM: TONY FABRIZIO, BOB WARD & JAMES LEE  
 DATE: MARCH 7, 2017  
 RE: SULFIDE ORE COPPER MINING NEAR THE BOUNDARY WATERS

Most Minnesotans are not anti-sulfide ore copper mining: a plurality favor having the mines in the state. Just not near the Boundary Waters Wilderness. The Boundary Waters Wilderness is a special place to Minnesota voters, and they want to protect it from sulfide ore copper mining. By a 32-point margin, Minnesota voters are decisively against sulfide ore copper mining in the areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness. In fact, more voters strongly oppose mining near the Boundary Waters than the total of those in favor of it. Even half of the voters in CD-08 are against sulfide ore copper mining there.

**View of Sulfide Ore Copper Mining in Minnesota**



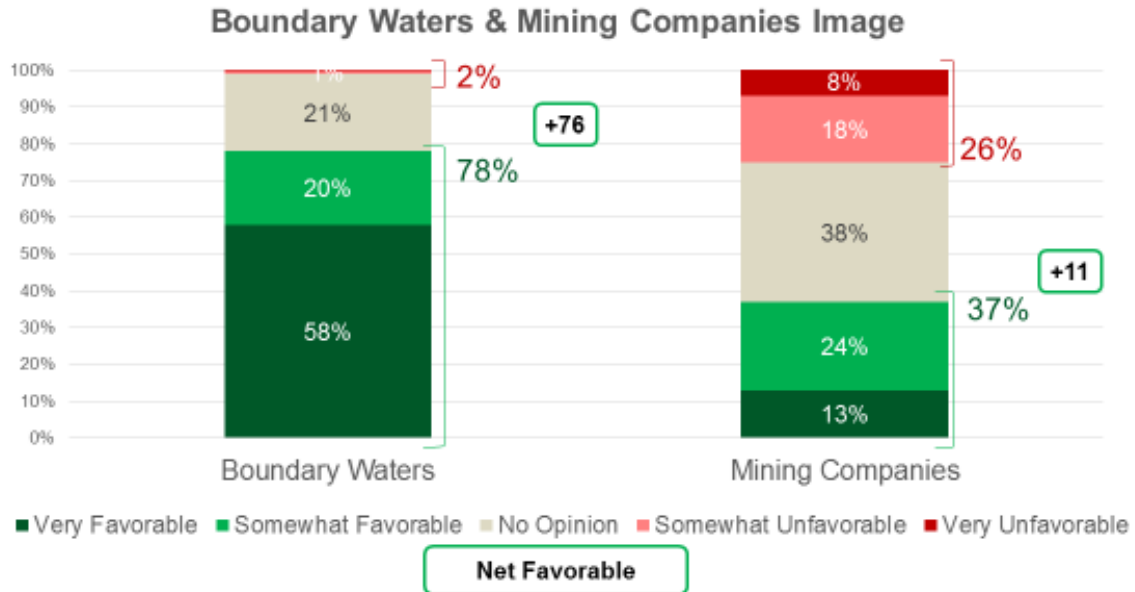
**View of Sulfide Ore Copper Mining near Boundary Waters**



<i>Sulfide Ore Copper Mines in Minnesota</i>	Statewide	DFL	Independents	GOP	CD-08
<b>Net Oppose</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>+31</b>	<b>-19</b>	<b>-49</b>	<b>-26</b>
Favor	43%	23%	42%	64%	54%
Oppose	33%	54%	23%	15%	28%

<i>Sulfide Ore Copper Mines Near Boundary Waters</i>	Statewide	DFL	Independents	GOP	CD-08
<b>Net Oppose</b>	<b>+32</b>	<b>+74</b>	<b>+20</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>+11</b>
Favor	27%	10%	32%	42%	38%
Oppose	59%	84%	52%	38%	49%
<i>Strongly Oppose</i>	39%	62%	31%	19%	36%

Most Minnesotans are not anti-mining. Indeed, the industry’s image is more positive than negative. However, Minnesotans are passionate about the Boundary Waters. Their love for the area is both broad and deep. Overall, 78% have a favorable opinion of the area, with an eye-popping 58% viewing it *very favorably*. The love for the Boundary Waters area is not surprising given that two-thirds of voters have been there, with about one in five making the trip every year.



<i>Boundary Waters Image</i>	Statewide	DFL	Independents	GOP	CD-08
<b>Net Favorable</b>	<b>+76</b>	<b>+77</b>	<b>+67</b>	<b>+79</b>	<b>+81</b>
Favorable	78%	80%	71%	79%	83%
Unfavorable	2%	3%	4%	-	2%
<i>Very Favorable</i>	58%	64%	50%	55%	67%

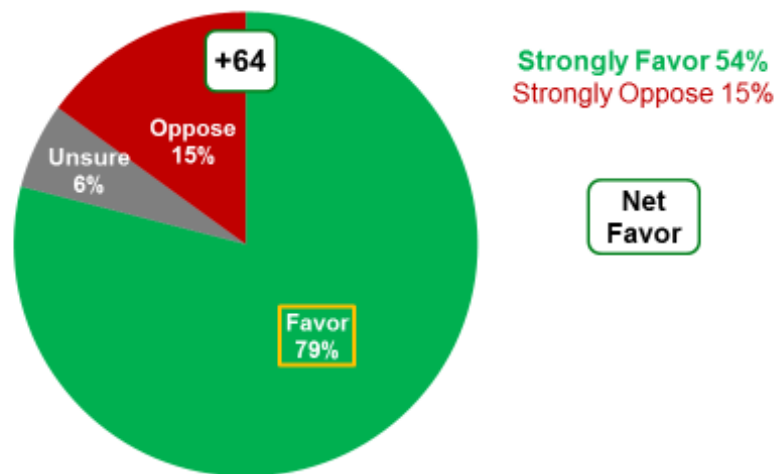
<i>Mining Companies Image</i>	Statewide	DFL	Independents	GOP	CD-08
<b>Net Favorable</b>	<b>+11</b>	<b>-22</b>	<b>+30</b>	<b>+40</b>	<b>+34</b>
Favorable	37%	22%	47%	50%	56%
Unfavorable	26%	43%	17%	10%	22%

Keeping sulfide ore copper mining away from the Boundary Waters Wilderness is a potent electoral issue. We asked voters if they would be likely to vote for a candidate for Congress if that person “fought to keep sulfide ore copper mining away from the areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness.” By a margin better than 4 to 1, voters said they would be more likely to vote for that candidate rather than less likely. Even in CD-8, where the mines would be located, and the potential appeal of mining jobs is cross-pressured by the desire to preserve the natural environment, the advantage is to the candidate who fights for the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

<i>Stopping Mines Near BW Ballot Impact</i>	Statewide	DFL	Independents	GOP	CD-08
More Likely Vote	46%	72%	33%	23%	34%
Less Likely Vote	10%	4%	13%	15%	21%

Voters believe the federal land management agencies made the correct decision in December. There is strong support for the current two year pause to gather scientific information and public input about the potential impacts of sulfide ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters. This holds true among voters of all parties and in CD-08.

**View of Two Year Pause to Study Impact of Sulfide Ore Copper Mining near Boundary Waters**



<i>Two Year Pause</i>	Statewide	DFL	Independents	GOP	CD-08
<b>Net Favor</b>	<b>+64</b>	<b>+82</b>	<b>+66</b>	<b>+44</b>	<b>+47</b>
Favor	79%	89%	80%	67%	70%
Oppose	15%	7%	14%	23%	23%
<i>Strongly Favor</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>35%</i>	<i>46%</i>

Minnesota voters recognize that the Boundary Waters Wilderness area is special and that the usual mining review practices are inadequate for this treasured area. Some have argued that the areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness should not be categorically ruled off-limits, that mine safety review plans are enough to guarantee a process that would ensure the safety of the BWW or wherever the mine was located. We tested that sentiment against the “pause and study” process the federal government set in motion in December. By a 40-point margin, Minnesotans want the current “pause and study” process to play out to see if a long-term moratorium on sulfide ore copper mining should be placed near the Boundary Waters Wilderness. Clear support for staying on the current path to finish the review holds among all party affiliations and in CD-08

## Follow Usual Practice or Finish Review



	Statewide	DFL	Independents	GOP	CD-08
Finish the current environmental review to see if the areas near the Boundary Waters should be put off limits to mining	68%	78%	63%	59%	61%
Review a specific mine plan in accordance with the usual practices even if it's near the Boundary Waters	28%	20%	28%	36%	35%

***METHODOLOGY:*** Fabrizio Ward conducted a statewide telephone survey of 600 registered voters in Minnesota with an oversample in the eighth congressional district to obtain 300 interviews there. Interviews were stratified into proportionate geographic units based on voter registration data from the Minnesota Election Administration & Campaigns office. The survey was conducted February 11-16, 2017 with half of the interviews contacted on cell phones and the rest on landlines. Gender and party affiliation were weighted to accurately reflect the state. The margin of error at the 95% confidence interval for 600 registered voters is  $\pm 4.0\%$  and  $\pm 5.7\%$  for 300 registered voters.

*\*Due to rounding, some totals may add up to more or less than 100%*

Q. In what year were you born? \_ \_ \_ \_ (18 YEARS OLD OR OLDER TO CONTINUE)

	SW	CD-8
18-34	21	19
35-54	33	29
55-64	21	21
65+	22	29
Refused	3	2

Q. Record gender, by observation

	SW	CD-8
Male	48	48
Female	52	52

Q. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

	SW	CD-8
Employed full time	54	45
Employed part time	8	10
Unemployed	2	5
Homemaker	5	4
Student	5	3
Retired	24	31
DK/Refused (DO NOT READ)	*	1

Q. Do you consider yourself a Democrat or DFLer, a Republican, or an Independent?  
 [IF INDEPENDENT, ASK:] Do you lean more towards the Democrats or the Republicans?  
 [IF NEITHER; RECORD AS AN INDEPENDENT]

	SW	CD-8
Republican	30	27
Independent/lean Republican	11	15
Independent	11	8
Independent/lean Democrat/DFLer	6	9
Democrat/DFLer	37	34
Other / Don't Know (DO NOT READ)	5	7

Q. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of (INSERT NAME)? If you have no opinion or have never heard of it just say so. (IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE, ASK) And is that VERY (favorable/unfavorable) or SOMEWHAT (favorable/unfavorable)?

	<i>Sample</i>	<b>Total Fav</b>	<b>Total Unfav</b>	Very Fav	Smwt Fav	Smwt Unfav	Very Unfav	No Opinion	Never Heard Of	DK/ Ref
The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness	<i>SW</i>	<b>78</b>	<b>2</b>	58	20	1	1	14	5	2
	<i>CD-8</i>	<b>83</b>	<b>2</b>	67	16	1	1	9	2	3
Mining Companies	<i>SW</i>	<b>37</b>	<b>26</b>	13	24	18	8	30	5	3
	<i>CD-8</i>	<b>56</b>	<b>22</b>	29	28	15	7	15	3	3

Q. As you may know, mining companies have proposed opening sulfide ore copper mines in Minnesota. From what you know, do you favor or oppose sulfide ore copper mining in Minnesota? (IF FAVOR/OPOSE, ASK) And is that STRONGLY (favor/oppose) or SOMEWHAT (favor/oppose)?

	<b>SW</b>	<b>CD-8</b>
<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>TOTAL OPOSE</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>
Strongly favor	14	25
Somewhat favor	29	29
Somewhat oppose	15	11
Strongly oppose	18	17
Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	24	18

Q. As you may know, mining companies have also proposed opening sulfide ore copper mines on the edge of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. From what you know, do you favor or oppose sulfide ore copper mining in the areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness? (IF FAVOR/OPOSE, ASK) And is that STRONGLY (favor/oppose) or SOMEWHAT (favor/oppose)?

	<b>SW</b>	<b>CD-8</b>
<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>TOTAL OPOSE</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>49</b>
Strongly favor	8	18
Somewhat favor	19	20
Somewhat oppose	20	12
Strongly oppose	39	36
Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	13	13

- Q. In January, federal land management agencies declared the areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness area off limits from sulfide ore copper mining for two years while they gather scientific information and public input about its potential impacts. This study could lead to a longer-term ban of up to twenty years on sulfide ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters Wilderness. Do you favor or oppose taking this type of pause to gather more information about the potential impacts of sulfide ore copper mining? **(IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK) And is that STRONGLY (favor/oppose) or SOMEWHAT (favor/oppose)?**

	SW	CD-8
<b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>
Strongly favor	54	46
Somewhat favor	25	24
Somewhat oppose	7	9
Strongly oppose	8	14
Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	6	6

- Q. If the election for Congress were held today, would you be MORE likely or LESS likely to vote for a candidate who fought to keep sulfide ore copper mining away from the areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness? If it would have no impact on your vote, just say so. **(IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK) And is that MUCH (more/less) likely or just SOMEWHAT (more/less) likely?**

	SW	CD-8
<b>TOTAL MORE LIKELY</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>TOTAL LESS LIKELY</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>
Much more likely to vote for	27	22
Somewhat more likely to vote for	19	12
No impact	40	36
Somewhat less likely to vote for	4	11
Much less likely to vote for	5	11
Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	5	9

Q. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion? (ROTATE)

(Some/Other) people say The Boundary Waters is an iconic landscape of pristine lakes, rivers, and forests and should receive the same review as other landmarks like the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone. The government should finish the current environmental review process before determining if the mining can be safely done there at all.

(Other/Some) people say environmental review of new mines is essential and there shouldn't be shortcuts. But it should be done in accordance with the usual practice of allowing a company to create a mine plan and apply for a permit. If a specific mine plan near the Boundary Waters is ruled safe, it should be allowed.

Which do you agree with more?

	SW	CD-8
Finish the current environmental review to see if the areas near the Boundary Waters should be put off limits to mining	68	61
Review a specific mine plan in accordance with the usual practices even if it's near the Boundary Waters	28	35
Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	4	4

Q. What best describes your visits to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness?

	SW	CD-8
<b>EVER VISITED</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>73</b>
<i>More than once per year</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Annually</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Every few years</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>More than five years ago</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>26</i>
<b>HAVE NEVER BEEN</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>
Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	1	1