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Tom Landwehr to Lead Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters

Former Minnesota Natural Resources Commissioner will lead protection efforts for America's most popular Wilderness

ELY, MN—Today the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters announced former Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner Tom Landwehr as Executive Director. Tom served as DNR Commissioner for the past eight years under Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton. He brings an abundance of talent and a wealth of experience and relationships to the position, including over 30 years of conservation experience in both public, private and advocacy sectors.

“We are thrilled to have Tom as Executive Director,” said National Chair Becky Rom. “He is the right person at the right time to lead our campaign to protect America’s most popular Wilderness from the threat of sulfide-ore copper mining.”

The Boundary Waters is threatened with a massive sulfide-ore copper mine proposed on its border and in its watershed by Chilean mining conglomerate Antofagasta's Twin Metals project. Seventy percent of Minnesotans [oppose](#) putting that kind of risky mining next to the Wilderness.

“The Boundary Waters is the most threatened public lands in America” said Landwehr. “My jaw dropped when I first learned of the Twin Metals project because of its proximity to the Boundary Waters, the Kawishiwi river system, Birch Lake and adjacent to my favorite Wilderness entry point. We wouldn't dig a huge mine next to Yellowstone or the Grand Canyon, and we shouldn't dig one next to the Boundary Waters.”

Landwehr’s hiring comes at a critical juncture in the fight to preserve this one-of-a-kind-lake-land Wilderness. Currently the Trump Administration is fast-tracking the Twin Metals project by [concocting dubious legal schemes](#), cancelling [critical studies](#) on the impact of this risky type of mining on the Wilderness and nearby communities, and twisting the regulatory process.

“Federal agency leadership in DC are ignoring laws and policies in order to push this project through,” continued Landwehr. “Those laws and policies are intended to protect people and the environment, and I simply can't stand by and watch that.”

Prior to joining Governor Mark Dayton’s administration as DNR Commissioner Tom served as Assistant State Director at the Nature Conservancy. Before that he worked at Ducks Unlimited and did prior state service at the Minnesota DNR. Tom is an adjunct faculty member at the

University of Minnesota where he taught wetland ecology and conservation. He served on the Shoreview City Council from 1995-2002 and is a member of many boards. He has Bachelor and Master's Degrees in Wildlife Management and an MBA from the Carlson School of Business. He lives in Shoreview with his wife and two children.

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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 veterans' groups. The Campaign is also supported by more than 300 local and national businesses. The Campaign is led by Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, based in Ely, Minnesota. For more information, visit: SavetheBoundaryWaters.org.