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Minnesotans strongly oppose sulfide-ore mining near Boundary Waters Wilderness

*New poll shows significant majorities of Minnesotans oppose sulfide-ore mining
near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness*

Ely, MN—New poll numbers released today show that significant majorities of Minnesotans of all political stripes oppose sulfide-ore mining in areas near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

The [statewide poll](#), conducted by the research firm Anzalone Lizst and Grove, shows that 67% of Minnesota voters oppose sulfide-ore mining near the Boundary Waters Wilderness, including 61% of voters in Minnesota's 8th Congressional District where proposed sulfide-ore mines would be located.

This broad statewide opposition coalition includes eight-in-ten DFL voters, more than 60% of Independents, and a 30-point majority in opposition among Republicans.

Leaders of the major effort to protect the Boundary Waters Wilderness from these dangerous mining proposals discussed the polling with reporters on a call this morning and reviewed with them [scientific analysis](#), supported by peer-reviewed hydrologic modeling, that clearly shows that sulfide-ore mining would have devastating impacts on the Boundary Waters and the communities that rely on it.

“The Boundary Waters Wilderness is a national treasure – one our state’s most precious natural resources, a world-renowned destination for outdoor recreation, and a major economic driver for Minnesota communities,” said Becky Rom, National Chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. “Public opinion is clear: Minnesotans don’t believe there should sulfide-ore mining near the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

In addition to the numbers opposing sulfide mining in areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness, an additional 65% of Minnesotans believe the Boundary Waters watershed should be afforded permanent protection, including 59% in the 8th Congressional District.

Twin Metals, owned by South American mining giant Antofagasta, is proposing to mine sulfide-ore on lands next to the Boundary Waters Wilderness and along rivers and lakes that flow directly into the Wilderness. This kind of hard-rock mining is known as [“America’s most toxic industry.”](#) Preliminary drilling has already occurred within one-quarter mile of the Wilderness boundary.

In a [letter](#) sent yesterday to Twin Metals Minnesota COO Ian Duckworth, Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton expressed his strong opposition to proposed sulfide-ore mining near the iconic Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Northeastern Minnesota. Governor Dayton wrote that the Boundary Waters Wilderness is “a crown jewel in Minnesota.”

The Boundary Waters Wilderness is a wild landscape of lakes, streams, woods, and wildlife covering 1.1 million acres along the Canadian border. It is the most heavily visited Wilderness Area in the United States, attracting 250,000 visitors from all over the world and helping to drive more than \$850 million in economic activity every year. The Boundary Waters is one of National Geographic Traveler Magazine’s [“50 Places of a Lifetime.”](#) a list of the world’s “must-see” destinations.

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The Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters is a broad coalition of more than 30 partner organizations, including conservation, sportsmen, and veteran’s groups. The Campaign is also supported by more than 100 local and national businesses. The Campaign is led by Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, which is based in Ely, Minnesota. For more information visit: SavetheBoundaryWaters.org