



A Letter to the Editor (LTE) is a short letter written by a member of the public and submitted to a newspaper or magazine, usually in response to a current issue, published article, or community concern.

- Tell your story, back up your claims, and advocate for your position.
- Refute, advocate, and make a call to action.
 - Most letters to the editor follow a standard format. Open your letter by refuting the claim made in the original story the paper ran or based on a current issue in the news (i.e., the issue of proposed sulfide-ore copper mining on the edge of the Boundary Waters).
- Then, wrap your letter up by explaining what you think needs to happen now and make your call to action.

P.S. Write the letter in your own words. Editors want letters in their papers to be original and from the reader. Be sure that you take the time to write the letter in your own words. Include your contact information. Please ensure that you include your name, address, and daytime phone number; the paper will contact you prior to printing your letter.

Letter to the Editor template: Protecting the Boundary Waters

By [Your Name]

[Your City, State]

1. Personal story (why the Boundary Waters matters to you)

I first learned about the Boundary Waters when: _____

Since then, it has meant so much to me because: _____

One of my favorite memories there is: _____

If copper mining were allowed on the edge of the Wilderness, it would affect me/my family by: _____

2. Facts or recent news (show what's at stake)

Right now, foreign mining company Antofagasta is pushing to open a sulfide-ore copper mine on the edge of the Boundary Waters. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, this type of mining is the most toxic industry in the U.S. Congressman Stauber has even introduced legislation to reverse protections and fast-track a mine near the Wilderness. Copper mining has never been done in Minnesota, and unlike iron mining, it causes acid mine drainage and heavy metal pollution that permanently poisons water.

3. Call to action (urge readers to act)

Some places are too important to risk—and the Boundary Waters is one of them. I urge [Minnesotans / Americans] to join me in calling on our leaders to:

- **[For Minnesota publications:]** Pass permanent state protections and urge our Members of Congress to oppose U.S. Congress Rep. Stauber's anti-Boundary Waters bill.
- **[For national publications:]** Urge your elected officials to oppose Rep. Stauber's legislation and instead support Rep. McCollum and Sen. Smith's permanent protection bills.

The Boundary Waters is America's most visited Wilderness, and once it is polluted, it can never be restored. Let's keep this treasured place safe for generations to come.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your City, State]