

Write a Letter to the Editor

What is a letter to the editor?

A letter-to-the-editor (LTE) is a letter from a reader that is printed in the 'opinions' section of a newspaper or other publication. They're used to show readers' issues of concern. Since the opinions section is often the most read, letters to the editor are crucial for our movement to reach new audiences.

The most effective letters have three main components:

1. Include your story. Your personal story of why the Boundary Waters and/or Wilderness areas in general are important to save and preserve for future generations is key. Be yourself and let your passion shine through. To get started, ask yourself some questions like these:

- *When did you first learn about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW)?*
- *Why is the BWCAW or Wilderness in general important to you?*
- *What motivated you to get involved in the movement to Save the Boundary Waters?*
- *How would proposed copper mining on the edge of the Boundary Waters directly affect your future experiences in the BWCAW?*





2. Include facts. Refer to our fact sheets that can be found on the Save the Boundary Waters website under the “Media” tab. These provide excellent source material that can be used for your letter. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Libby London (Libby@SaveTheBoundaryWaters.org).

3. The ask. This is the main message and takeaway, and is a key part of the letter. The ask is where you call the readers to take action and tell them how they can make a difference. **Our recommended ask is to tell your local State leaders to step up and support permanently protecting the Boundary Waters through legislation!**



Be sure to include your name, address, and daytime phone number; the paper will contact you before printing your letter. If you have any questions, please reach out to Libby London or other staff for help, and request our how-to guide.

We recommend checking in with Save the Boundary Waters staff before submitting your letter. Thank you!

Contact us to let us know you’re writing a LTE and to ask us your questions!

Libby London

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