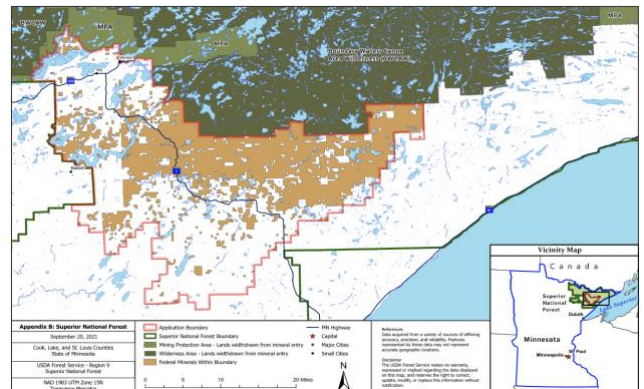


SAVE *the* BOUNDARY WATERS

Historic bill calls for Permanent Protection for Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park

S. 1366/H.R.588 - *The Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection Act/The Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act* protects America's most visited Wilderness, Minnesota's only National Park, and Canada's adjoining Wilderness by preventing risky sulfide-ore copper mining in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Quetico Park, and Voyageurs National Park. The legislation permanently withdraws from the federal mining program 225,504 acres of Federal land and waters in the headwaters of the Wilderness and the National and Canadian Parks. The bill would ban sulfide-ore copper mining – America's most toxic industry – in a portion of the water-rich ecosystem that contains 20% of the freshwater in the entire 190 million-acre National Forest System.

- **The Boundary Waters, Voyageurs National Park, and Quetico Park are pristine today** because of more than a century of protections by the State of Minnesota and the U.S. government. The Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act will ensure that these unique and valuable natural resources remain pristine for generations to come.
- **Interior Secretary Haaland's Public Land Order (PLO) of January 26, 2023**, withdrew 225,504 acres of federal lands in the headwaters of the Wilderness and Parks from mineral leasing for 20 years. Her action was based on the recommendations of the BLM and the Forest Service after a robust 2022 Environmental Assessment documented the risks of copper mining in the headwaters and **found** that metal mining presented an unacceptable, inherent risk of serious and irreparable harm to the Boundary Waters natural resources.
- **Eighty percent of the Boundary Waters is in the downstream half of the watershed. The PLO protects the Boundary Waters, the two Parks, and their watershed, in addition to the 1854 Ceded Territory of the Lake Superior Chippewa. There are no federal mineral leases in the withdrawal area.**
- **This bill supports a strong wilderness-based regional economy.** The best independent economic analysis shows that the region would enjoy more jobs (1,500 to 4,600 more jobs) and more income (\$100 million to \$900 million more income) over the next twenty years if copper mining were banned on National Forest lands in the watershed. **The outdoor recreation industry contributes \$13.5 billion annually to Minnesota's economy.**
- The Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act only applies to **federal lands and minerals within the Rainy River Headwaters** – where the surface waters and groundwater flows directly into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Voyageurs National Park, and Canada's Quetico Park.
- According to a poll by President Trump's pollster Fabrizio Ward, **56% of constituents in the 8th CD and 70% of Minnesotans oppose copper mining near the Boundary Waters.**



Because the Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act is targeted at sulfide-ore copper mining in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs National Park, it:

- Does not limit taconite or iron-ore mining anywhere in the State of Minnesota
- Does not affect sulfide-ore copper mining projects outside the Rainy River Drainage Basin
- Does not interfere with state mineral leasing, state environmental regulations, or state permitting processes.