

Chairman Pete Stauber
Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee
1324 Longworth House Office Building

Ranking Member Alexandria Ocasio Cortez
Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee
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Chairman Stauber and Ranking Member Ocasio Cortez,

We write to you today in opposition to Interior Secretary Haaland's withdrawal of 225,504 acres of the Superior National Forest in northern Minnesota. This action would ban mining of minerals for twenty years in the Duluth Complex which has abundant deposits of copper, nickel, cobalt, taconite, and other PGE group metals.

My husband and I live on Fall Lake which is partly in the Boundary Waters. As such, Fall Lake is part of the Rainy River Watershed. Water flows from Birch Lake to White Iron Lake to Garden Lake and then comes to Fall Lake over Kawishiwi Falls and right to our shoreline. From Fall Lake, it flows into Newton Lake and Basswood Lake as it heads further north through the Boundary Waters.

The Rainy River Watershed also receives water from Dunka Pit near Birch Lake, a higher sulfide mine pit that has been monitored since 1977. Yet there has been no impact on Birch Lake or the Boundary Waters in all these years since.

Exploration of copper/nickel in the Ely area has been ongoing since the 1940s and 1950s. We remember well the discussion of INCO's mining plans in the 1960s and 1970s, but no mining was started. The timing wasn't right, and neither was the technology to mine it safely.

We need to acknowledge the environmental movement of the 1970s that led to the passage of the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts. We are thankful that the copper/nickel projects proposed in the 1960s never moved forward. Mining technology has advanced over the past 50 years. We now have strict mining regulations to assure mining can be done safely regarding our environment.

We thank Congressman Pete Stauber for bringing the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources field hearing to the Iron Range. While several Republican members attended, it is shameful Congresswoman Ocasio Cortez, nor any other Democrat member of the subcommittee, didn't bothered to join their Republican colleagues. They could have learned how important mining and our environment are to all of us.

We thank Congressman Stauber for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 34 to follow Section 204(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and nullify the withdrawal.

We support the Superior National Forest Restoration Act, which would reinstate Twin Metals' federal leases and allow the environmental permitting process to move forward for Twin Metals and stop frivolous lawsuits. Other states obtained their permit to mine in less than ten years. The political football of restricting and banning companies from moving mining projects forward must end.

The Twin Metals project can and should move forward, just like Eagle Mine in Upper Michigan. Eagle Mine is an underground copper mine ten miles from Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake in the world! They have been in operation for nearly ten years with no impact on Lake Superior. We can thank modern mining technology.

Our Minnesota Senators Klobuchar and Smith, and Governor Walz must acknowledge we need the minerals, and we can mine these minerals safer than countries that have little environmental regulations or safety regulations.

Minnesota is rich in God-given mineral resources and the past fifty years has given us technology to mine them safely.

Sincerely,

Doug McReady &
Nancy McReady - CWCS President

Conservationists with Common Sense - CWCS

"Advocates for multiple use of public lands & waters with care for our environment for healthy communities"