



Date: 01/29/2020

Tim Charters
Executive Director
Congressional Western Caucus

Sir,

We are writing this letter in the hopes that the Congressional Western Caucus can help us stop a piece of legislation introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum. The bill in question is H.R. 5598 which seeks to ban copper nickel mining on 234,000 acres of the Superior National Forest. This is the same 234,000 acres that President Trump removed from consideration for a 20 year mineral withdrawal. If this ban is allowed to pass it would end any chance of Twin Metals opening their proposed underground copper nickel mine. This mine would provide 750 good paying mining jobs along with support services jobs. Northeast Minnesota is in dire need of these good paying jobs in order for us to revitalize our economy and communities.

Rep. McCollum is trying to circumvent and preempt the NEPA process with her bill. The NEPA process is designed to make the decisions on whether projects can be done in an environmentally safe manner. The time has come to stop these preemptive actions and for government overreach to stop happening. Any assistance you or the members of the Western Caucus would be greatly appreciated by our group and the people of Northeast Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Cole
CEO Minnesota Miners

Patricia Hammes
COO Minnesota Miners