



December 6, 2022

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Steny Hoyer
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Dick Durbin
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Supporting Legislation to Permanently Protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from Sulfide-Ore Copper Mining

Dear Congresswoman Pelosi, Congressman Hoyer, Senator Schumer, and Senator Durbin,

On behalf of the 112 undersigned businesses, we write to advocate for a permanent mineral withdrawal of federal lands and minerals in the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park. Representative McCollum's legislation, H.R. 2974, *The Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Act*, does precisely that. It is critical for elected officials like you to lead the fight in protecting the Boundary Waters now rather than later—which is where we need your leadership. Therefore, we respectfully request that you hold a vote for Representative McCollum's legislation and vote in support of H.R. 2794.

Our businesses are concerned for and invested in the future productivity of the Boundary Waters, but the Federal Land Policy & Management Act limits the Administration to a withdrawal of up to 20 years. As a result, permanent protection of the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs needs leaders to support a Congressionally mandated ban on this toxic mining from the Rainy River Drainage Basin (the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs watershed).

On June 23, 2022, the U.S. Forest Service released an exhaustive draft Environmental Assessment (EA) encompassing all the available science, economics, public health, and public opinion. The 93-page assessment—summarizing twenty resource reports—documents the irreversible damage sulfide-ore copper mining would cause to the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs National Park and in result, proposes a 20-year mineral withdrawal on federal lands and minerals in the watershed.

Not only is the science clear, the public support is also broad. Polling conducted earlier this year by Impact Research (formerly ALG Research) found that nearly 70% of Minnesotans support legislation for permanent protection from sulfide-ore copper mining for the Boundary Waters. Additionally, a new poll from Change research [found](#) that 7 in 10 midterm voters in Minnesota still support legislation to protect the Boundary Waters. In what we all recognize as a highly polarized political climate, finding an issue that genuinely cuts across party lines with this level of support is rare.

Businesses like ours are relying on you to recognize the enduring economic and recreational benefits the Boundary Waters provides by finishing the job of protecting this cherished place now. We stand by to support your vote on HR 2794.

Sincerely,

Tim Koehler, CFO
Backpacker's Pantry
Boulder, CO

Keith Shattenkirk, Program Officer, Healthy
Lands & Waters
Patagonia
Ventura, CA

Jeff Cresswell, Co-Owner/Co-CEO
Klean Kanteen
Chico, CA

Annie Nyborg, Sustainability Director
Peak Design
San Francisco, CA

Dan Osipow, Sr VP, Corporate Sponsorship
Bank of the West
San Francisco, CA

Devon Richardson, Giving &
Sustainability Manager
MiiR
Seattle, WA

Gordon Seabury, CEO
Toad&Co
Santa Barbara, CA

Kaj Bune
EXPED
Tacoma, WA

Tucker Kimball
Orvis
Sunderland, VT

Mikaela Swanlund
REI Co-op
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Todd Spaletto
Public Lands
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Ryan Andrist
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Bend, OR

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Zachary Latimore
Alakef Coffee
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Bearskin Lodge
Grand Marais, MN

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Blue Lake Studio
Park Rapids, MN

Josh Rude
Glørud Design
Duluth, MN

Rob Coughlin
Granite Gear
Two Harbors, MN

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Great Lakes Gear Exchange
Duluth, MN

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Hungry Jack Canoe Outfitters
Grand Marais, MN

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Maple Hill SugarBush and Farm
Grand Marais, MN

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NORTH 61 LLC
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Paddle Planner LLC
Duluth, MN

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Performance Edge
Duluth, MN

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Richard Hamilton Smith Photography
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Sawbill Canoe Outfitters
Tofte, MN

Sarah Lynch
Sawtooth Outfitters
Tofte, MN

Katie Usem
Sisu + Löyly
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Stewart River Boatworks
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TimberWolff Realty LLC
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Tischer Gallery
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Rachael Schauer
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John Kerschbaum
Gondola Romantica
Stillwater, MN

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Minnetonka, MN

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Pilgrim Paddles
Rochester, MN

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Recal Travel
Minneapolis, MN

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Sun & Slope Clothing Outfitters
Wayzata, MN

Vincent Robichaud
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Monica Shoberg
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Berne Broudy, Owner
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Rebecca Cahall, CEO
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Christopher Evavold
Black River Sleds
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Steve Sikkema
Old Mustache Canoe Paddles
Harbor Springs, MI

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Alpine Shop and The Pathfinder
Saint Louis, MO

Lisa Radowski
REDBUDSUDS
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The Joy Trip Project
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