



★ GUNS. OIL. POLLUTERS. ★



H.R. 3195

To destroy the Boundary Waters

This week, House Republicans continue their political crusade to check off the wish lists of industries that have consistently lied to, ripped off, or harmed the American people in the name of bigger profits. **H.R. 3195, the Superior National Forest Restoration Act (Stauber, R-Minn.), is a blatant favor to Chilean-owned mining company, Twin Metals Minnesota, that would reinstate two dangerous mining leases in the Boundary Waters watershed.**

The Boundary Waters area is too special to mine – and critical to the local economy.

Spanning over one million acres in Superior National Forest, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) is the country's most visited wilderness area, welcoming ~150,000 visitors annually to its pristine, crystal-clear waters, expansive wildlife habitat, and unique recreation opportunities. The area is also home to 1,500 cultural resource sites, including historic Ojibwe villages and Native American pictograph panels.

Along with nearby Voyageurs National Park, the Boundary Waters supports 22,000 jobs and \$1.4 billion in annual visitor spending. In contrast, the Twin Metals mine would negatively impact the local economy over time, following the boom-bust cycle of most extractive economies.

The Twin Metals mine is too risky.

Republicans claim that mining has been done safely in the Boundary Waters area for decades, but they are referring to taconite mining that is happening farther away from the watershed. Twin Metals' proposed operation is a sulfide-ore copper mine, which has a far greater risk of acid-mine drainage, a major threat to health and safety. The U.S. Forest Service found that 100% of sulfide-ore copper mines have had pipeline spills or other accidental releases.

Our severely outdated mining law does not adequately protect our environment, our health, tribal communities, or American taxpayers.

Mining is the country's number one source of toxic pollution, with devastating effects on our environment and nearby communities. That's because mining companies have long-exploited our more than 150-year-old Mining Law of 1872 — which has no environmental or tribal consultation requirements — by trashing our public lands and not paying a single cent in royalties to the American people. We will need minerals for the clean energy transition, but we cannot risk our special places, public health and safety, wilderness, and more under this antiquated law. We need mining reform now.

NEARLY 70% OF MINNESOTANS ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM SUPPORT PERMANENTLY PROTECTING THE BOUNDARY WATERS FROM SULFIDE-ORE COPPER MINING.



Additional Background

- In 2016, the U.S. Forest Service determined that sulfide-ore copper mining in the BWCAW watershed posed significant harm to the area and denied Twin Metals' two existing leases.
- In 2019, former President Trump improperly reinstated the leases after halting an environmental review of the area.
- In 2022, the Biden administration canceled the leases and, in 2023, withdrew the area from any new mining claims for 20 years.
- H.R. 3195 would rescind that mineral withdrawal and reinstate the canceled leases and permits without any judicial review.

WE SHOULD NEVER RISK OUR MOST SPECIAL PLACES TO BOOST THE PROFIT MARGINS OF A FOREIGN-OWNED MINING COMPANY. VOTE NO ON H.R. 3195.