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Anti-Public Lands Politicians Brought in to Push for Risky Foreign Mining Project at the Doorstep of Minnesota's Boundary Waters

Large majority of Minnesotans oppose dangerous mining near the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

Ely, MN - Yesterday, Representatives Rick Nolan and Tom Emmer brought in anti-public lands politicians Paul Gosar (AZ-04) and Bruce Westerman (AR-04) to push for a sulfide-ore copper mine at the doorstep to Minnesota's Boundary Waters Wilderness. Reps. Gosar and Westerman are part of an [anti-public lands caucus](#) that has been a driving force behind efforts to weaken protections for National Parks and privatize public lands.

"Rep. Nolan can't find enough people in Minnesota who support threatening our pristine Boundary Waters with dangerous sulfide-ore copper mining, so he brought in hired guns with an extreme anti-public lands agenda," said Jason Zabokrtsky, co-chair of Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters. "The efforts of Reps. Nolan and Emmer to end the ongoing environmental review process in favor of the interests of a foreign mining company are an affront to Minnesota values. We urge them to rethink their priorities and join the large majority of Minnesotans who support the responsible environmental review process already underway."

Twin Metals Minnesota, which is owned by Chilean mining conglomerate Antofagasta, has proposed putting sulfide-ore copper mines directly outside of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. This type of mining is [extremely toxic](#) and does not belong near the world-class hunting and fishing areas of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. Antofagasta has a [terrible history](#) of environmental violations, disregard for local peoples and cultural heritage, conflicts of interest and highly suspect ethical practices in their home country of Chile.

Nearly 60 percent of Minnesotans oppose sulfide-ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters, and 79 percent, including 70 percent in Rick Nolan's district, support the ongoing environmental

review he wants to stop. This summer over 74,000 people [spoke up](#) to ask the US Forest Service to conduct the environmental review currently underway.

Last month, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue [affirmed](#) his commitment to seeing the environmental review process through to completion.

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Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters was formed to help gain permanent protection for the Boundary Waters. Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters is also supported by more than 250 local and national businesses and its sister organization the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters is led by the Boundary Waters Trust. More information available at SportsmenfortheBoundaryWaters.org.