



April 1, 2016

Mr. Neil Kornze
Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, NW, Rm. 5665
Washington, DC 20240

Mr. Tom Tidwell
Chief
U.S. Forest Service
201 Fourteenth St, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Kornze and Mr. Tidwell,

There are few places left in the country quite like the boundary waters in the upper reaches of Minnesota. The Superior National Forest, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), and the Rainy River drainage basin are comprised of many unique natural resources and teem with walleye, bass, pike, trout, and panfish. Simply put, it is an angler's paradise. Because of its distinction, the debate over the Twin Metals proposed sulfide-ore copper mine is a serious one with long-term implications.

The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) is the nation's recreational fishing trade association, representing sportfishing equipment manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers, outdoor media and angler advocacy groups. Our members depend on healthy, abundant fisheries, which are the foundation of 828,000 jobs and \$115 billion in annual economic impact nationwide. In Minnesota alone there are 1.6 million anglers that spend \$2.4 billion on retail sales and nearly \$600 thousand in local, state, and federal taxes every year. This is on top of funds from fishing licenses that the state uses for conservation. Clearly the significance of recreation on public lands and waters is more than enjoyment by people today; it is a major economic driver that depends on responsible resource stewardship.

As the decision-making process for the Twin Metals proposal proceeds, we trust state and federal authorities to manage the BWCAW for the public interest, including for sportsmen and women. We encourage critical, science-based, and thorough consideration of the impacts on the ecosystem before allowing further mining activities.

ASA and its members look forward to participating in any public processes that will guide future management of the BWCAW. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott B. Gudes".

Scott Gudes
Vice President of Government Affairs

Cc: Secretary Sally Jewell, Secretary Tom Vilsack, Senator Al Franken, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Governor Mark Dayton

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